

CORPORAL

RUSTY DUGAN

No. 2

COMICS



10¢



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

Missing...

"Missing in action." You know what that can mean.

Mom says you must be brave. "It's what your father would expect of us," she tells you when it's bedtime and your chin starts to feel shaky. Then she kisses you extra hard and turns her head away so you can't see her eyes.

You've never let her see you cry. Not once, since that telegram came and she twisted it all up in a ball, then smoothed it and put it in the desk.

But, lying in bed, you play "Pretend"—pretend you can hear his step as he comes up to your room—pretend you can feel a stubble brush your forehead. And sometimes, in the dark, you can almost smell a cigarette—suit close to your face.

Later you dream—dreams that you don't tell about. And in the morning you wake up with that funny, empty feeling in your stomach.

* * *

Poor little guy. We—all of us—wish there were something we could do. Perhaps there is. Why shouldn't it be this?

We can resolve that the plans your father had for you shall remain within your reach, that you shall have the chance to grow and learn, that your opportunities will be bounded only by your own get-up-and-go, that you will progress and prosper in direct relation to your own ability—in a land of freedom and opportunity.

Those are the things your Dad valued, the things for which he gave his life. Though some may strive to change all that—provide you with the "benefits" of an all-powerful government, the "advantages" of regimentation, the "blessings" of bureaucracy—we can resolve they won't succeed.

* * *

You, son, won't read these words, and if you did, they wouldn't mean much to you now. But your father's friends—known and unknown—are making you a promise, just the same.

You may never hear it from their lips. But if you were older you would read it in their faces—recognize it in their spirit. They are determined to keep America free. To keep it a land in which government is the servant, not the master of the people. To keep it the kind of America your Dad wanted to preserve—for you.



(Reprinted by courtesy of Chesapeake and Ohio Railway)

NARFSTAR

Captain FEARLESS

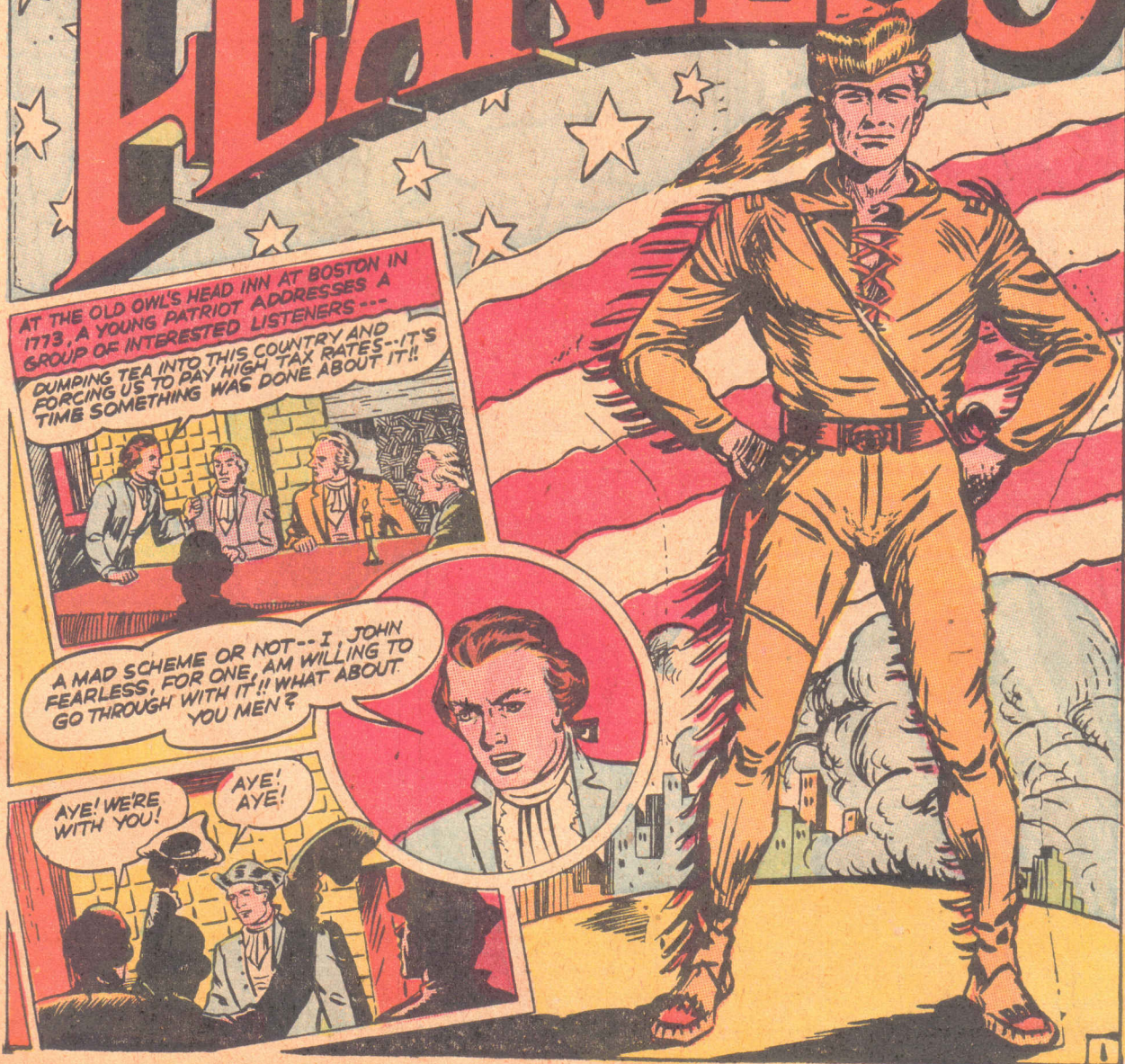
AT THE OLD OWL'S HEAD INN AT BOSTON IN 1773, A YOUNG PATRIOT ADDRESSES A GROUP OF INTERESTED LISTENERS ---

DUMPING TEA INTO THIS COUNTRY AND FORCING US TO PAY HIGH TAX RATES---IT'S TIME SOMETHING WAS DONE ABOUT IT!!

A MAD SCHEME OR NOT--I, JOHN FEARLESS, FOR ONE, AM WILLING TO GO THROUGH WITH IT!! WHAT ABOUT YOU MEN?

AYE! WE'RE WITH YOU!

AYE! AYE!



LATER THAT EVENING THE ANGERED COLONISTS DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS INDIANS..

COVER UP MEN! WE'LL SHOW THE KING'S MEN WHAT TO DO WITH THEIR TEA!

AYE! CAPTAIN FEARLESS! THIS IS ONE TEA PARTY WITHOUT DRINKING ANY!

THAT'S IT! EVERY BIT OF IT!

AYE! THIS'LL SHOW THEM THAT WE'RE ALL FREE MEN!

...AND ABOARD THE TEA SHIP DOCKED IN BOSTON HARBOR..

....AND IN 1774 YOUNG JOHN FEARLESS IS ELECTED TO THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS...

BRAVO JOHN! YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

JOHN FEARLESS WILL SHOW THEM HOW TO DO THINGS!

TIME MOVES SWIFTLY.... A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE THE BOSTON TEA PARTY.....

...WHILE THE MEMORY OF LEXINGTON, CONCORD AND BUNKER HILL REMAINS FRESH IN OUR MEMORIES, IT IS TIME TO DECLARE.....

...THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.... WITH CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS... LIFE LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS...

...AND ON JULY 4, 1776, THE FORMAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IS READ TO THE PUBLIC!

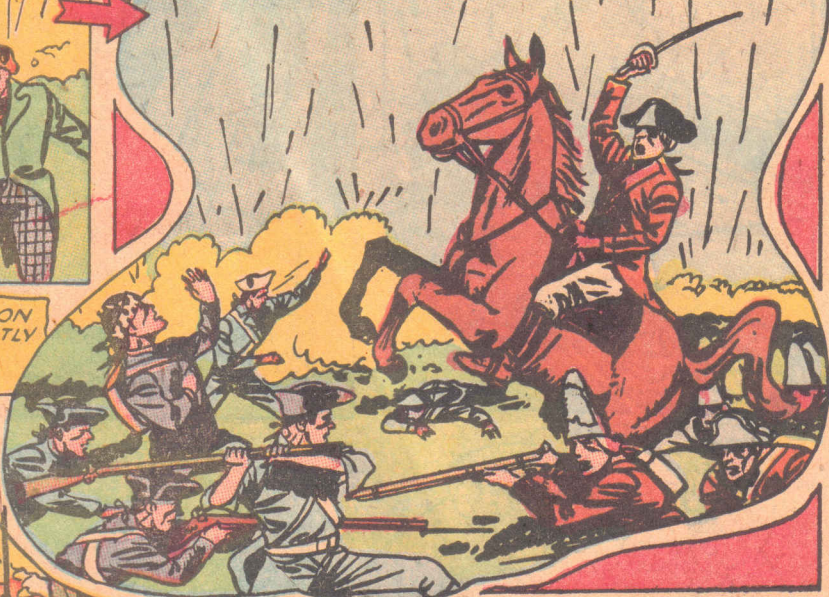
AYE! THIS IS A FREE LAND AND IT SHALL REMAIN SO!

THIRTEEN COLONIES! THAT'S WHAT WE ARE FREE AND INDEPENDENT!

GREAT REJOICING IS HELD THROUGHTOUT THE COLONIES AS THE NEWS OF THE GREAT DECLARATION REACHES THEIR EARS....

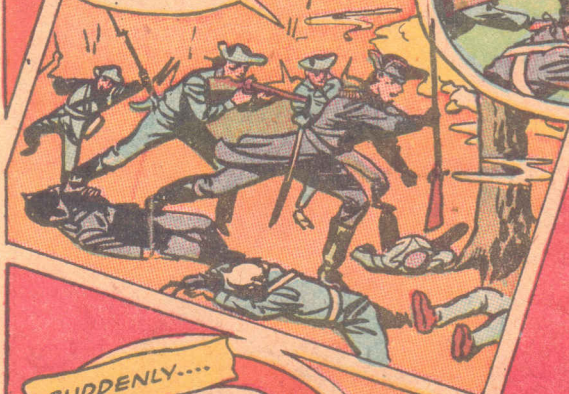


BUT THE REJOICING WAS SHORT LIVED AS CRACK BRITISH TROOPS ATTACK THE CRUDE, UNTRAINED CONTINENTALS....



AND AT THE HEAD OF HIS DIVISION CAPTAIN JOHN FEARLESS, VALIANTLY LEADS HIS MEN ONWARD!

ONWARD! TO LIBERTY AND FREEDOM! CHARGE!

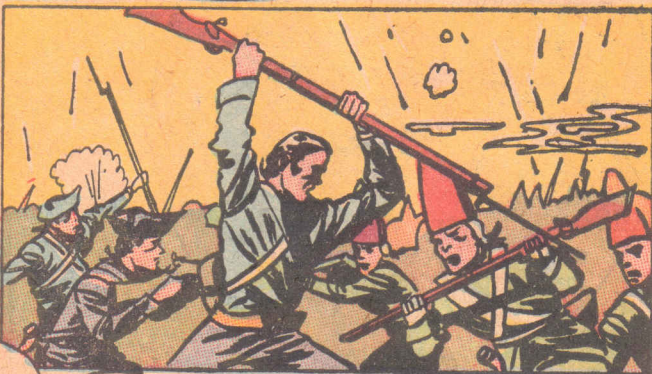
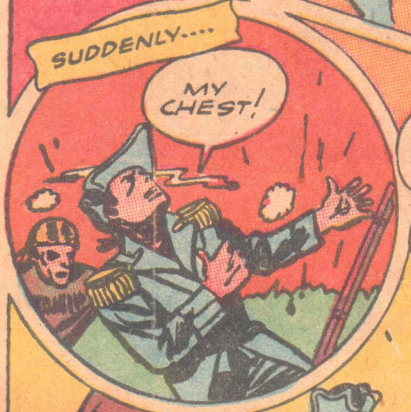


SUDDENLY....

MY CHEST!

WE'VE DISPERSED THEM, CAPTAIN FEARLESS! COME...WE'LL GET YOU TO A DOCTOR!

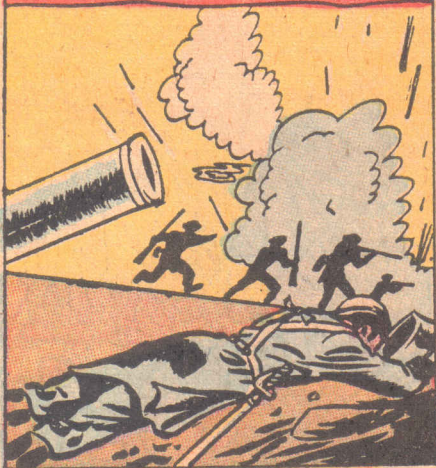
NEVER MIND ME-- AFTER THEM! I COMMAND YOU!



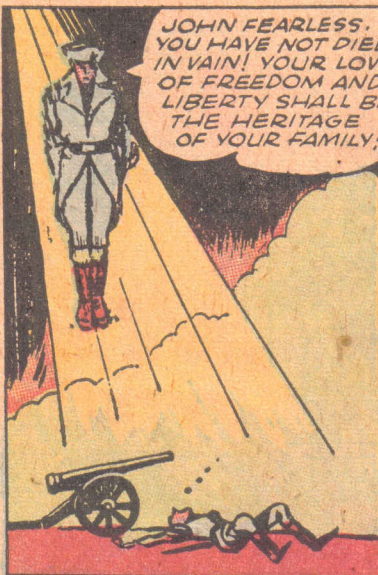
'AYE JOHN! WE'LL DO YOUR BIDDING!



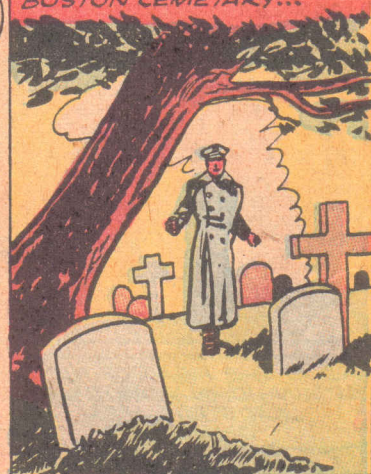
WHILE THE MEN HASTEN TO CARRY OUT THE ORDER, CAPTAIN FEARLESS SLUMPS TO THE GROUND AND DIES.....



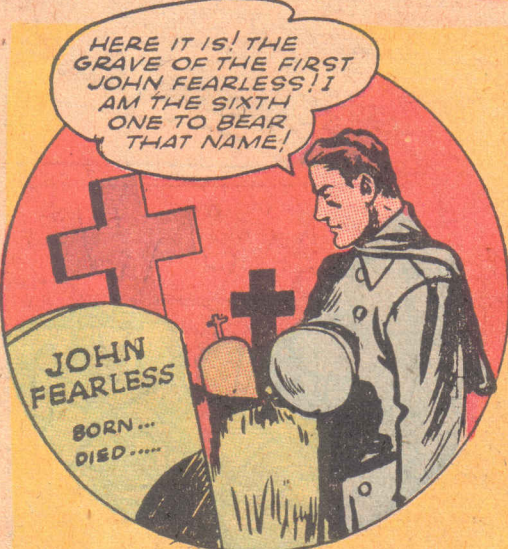
JOHN FEARLESS. YOU HAVE NOT DIED IN VAIN! YOUR LOVE OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY SHALL BE THE HERITAGE OF YOUR FAMILY!



SOME HUNDRED AND SIXTY YEARS LATER, A STRAPPING YOUNG CADET WALKS THRU HISTORICAL BOSTON CEMETARY...

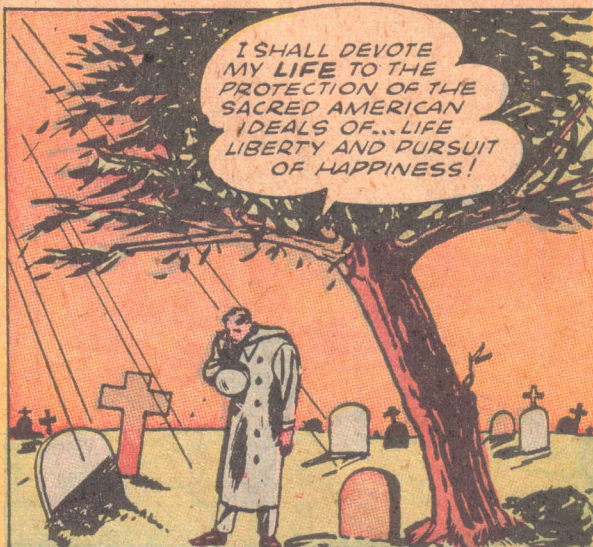


HERE IT IS! THE GRAVE OF THE FIRST JOHN FEARLESS! I AM THE SIXTH ONE TO BEAR THAT NAME!



AND BEFORE THE GRAVE OF HIS NOBLE ANCESTOR YOUNG JOHN FEARLESS MAKES A VOW...

I SHALL DEVOTE MY LIFE TO THE PROTECTION OF THE SACRED AMERICAN IDEALS OF... LIFE LIBERTY AND PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS!



BUT SUDDENLY.....

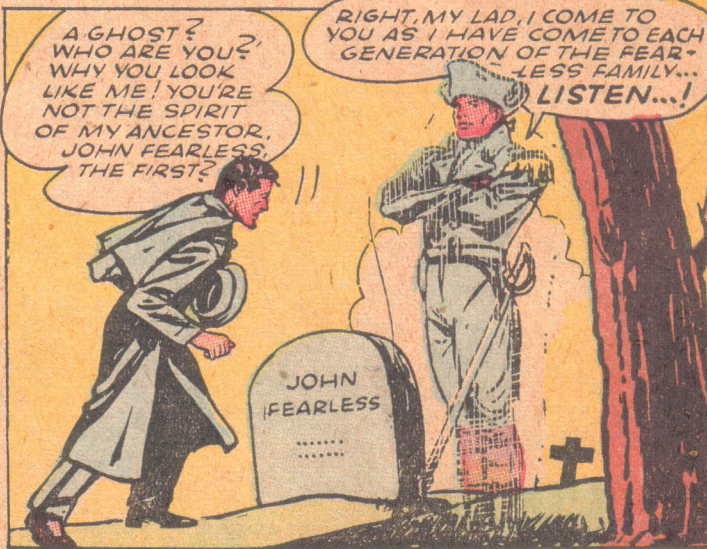
AWE! MY SON, TO BE SURE YOU WILL...!

WH...WHO SAID THAT?



A GHOST? WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU? YOU LOOK LIKE ME! YOU'RE NOT THE SPIRIT OF MY ANCESTOR, JOHN FEARLESS, THE FIRST?

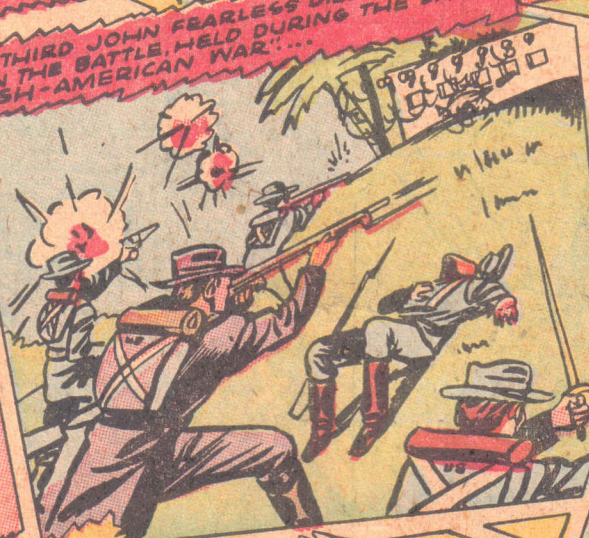
RIGHT, MY LAD, I COME TO YOU AS I HAVE COME TO EACH GENERATION OF THE FEARLESS FAMILY... LISTEN...!



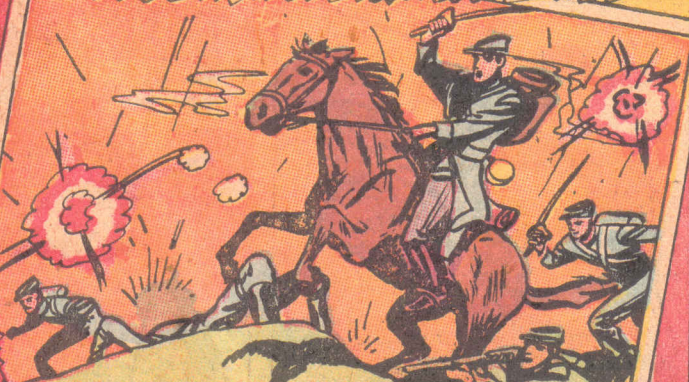
HE RELATES TO THE YOUNGSTER:
"IN 1812 THE SECOND JOHN FEAR-
LESS LED A HANDFUL OF MEN AGAIN-
ST THE ADVANCING HOARD OF BRITISH..."



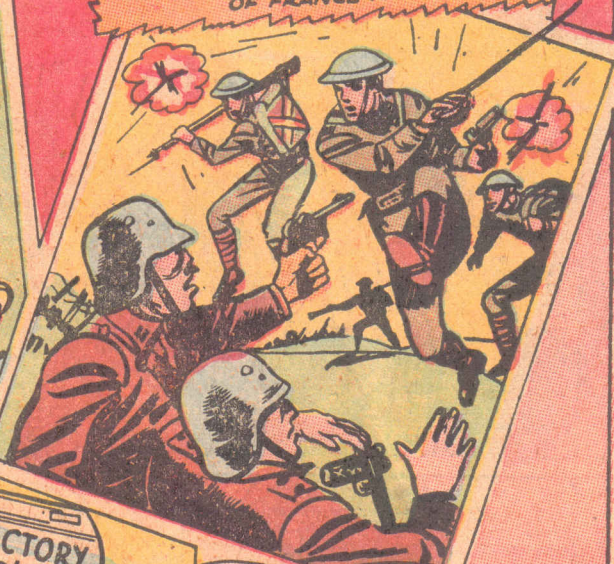
"A THIRD JOHN FEARLESS DIED VALIANTLY
IN THE BATTLE, FELD DURING THE SPAN-
ISH-AMERICAN WAR"...



"ANOTHER FEARLESS DIRECTED THE
AMERICAN ADVANCES ON THE MEXICAN
FRONTIER IN 1847"...

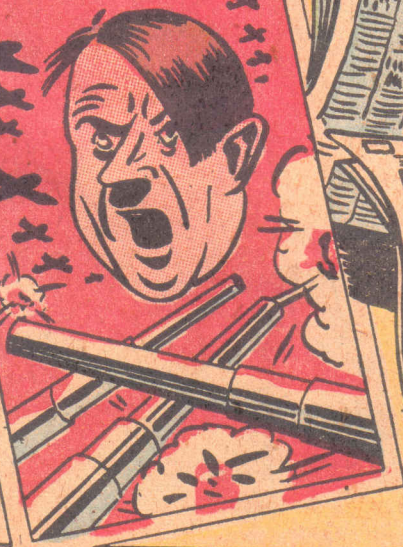


"IN 1918, COURAGEOUS CAPTAIN
FEARLESS LED MANY A VICTORIOUS
CHARGE ON THE BATTLE FIELD
OF FRANCE"...

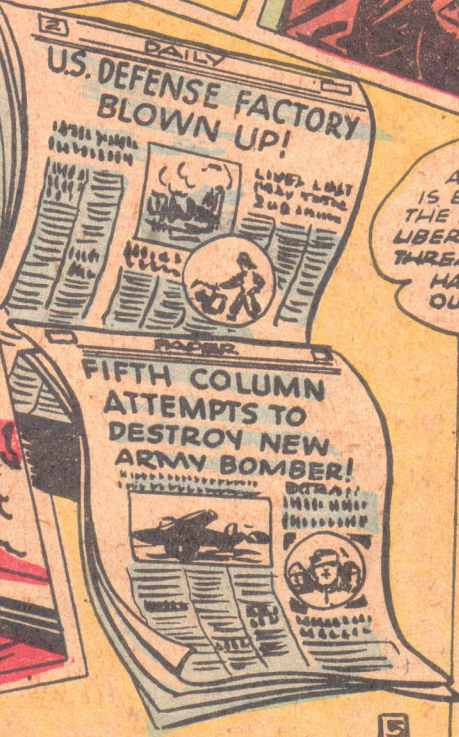


"BUT TODAY..."

THEY SHALL
FEEL OUR MIGHT!
THE NEW ORDER
MUST TRIUMPH!

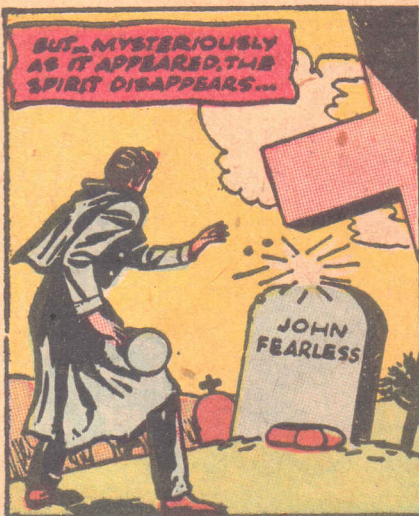


DAILY
U.S. DEFENSE FACTORY
BLOWN UP!



AYE! JOHN... YOURS
IS EVEN A GREATER TASK!
THE IDEALS OF FREEDOM,
LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE ARE
THREATENED BY ENEMIES
HARBORED WITHIN
OUR OWN BORDERS!





BUT...MYSTERIOUSLY
AS IT APPEARED, THE
SPIRIT DISAPPEARS...



HMMM...WHAT'S
THIS?...A
PACKAGE!

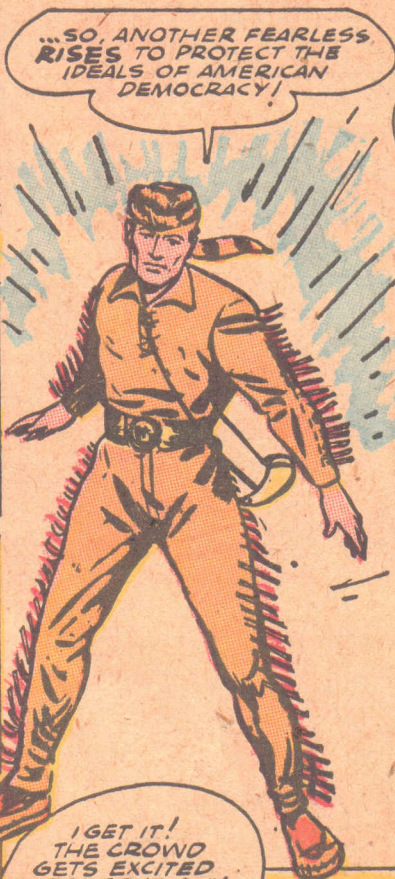


WHY IT'S A UNIFORM....
BUCKSKIN OF EARLY
AMERICAN DESIGN!
AND THIS HORN...
WHAT CAN IT
BE?



I'LL REMEMBER
THAT!

BLOW
ONLY IN
GREAT
DANGER



...SO, ANOTHER FEARLESS
RISES TO PROTECT THE
IDEALS OF AMERICAN
DEMOCRACY!



MEANWHILE, SINISTER
FIGURES PLAN TO
STRIKE!

VE AR' ALL
HERE, VON
GROON!

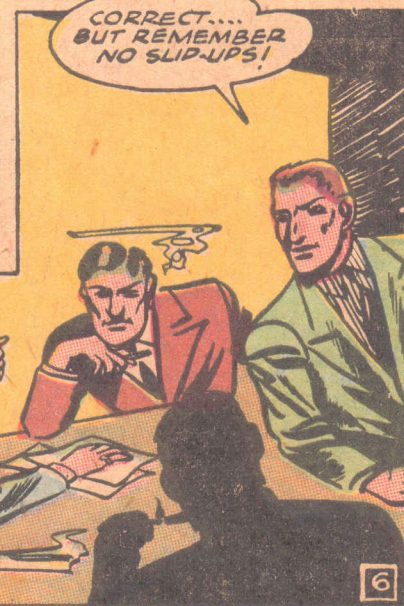
GOOD! LISTEN
CLOSELY! THE
AMERICAN FOOLS
ARE LAUNCHING
A HEAVY BATTLESHIP
TOMORROW! OUR
ORDERS ARE TO
SEE THAT THEY
DON'T!



WE SHALL BE AMONGST
THE CROWD WHEN THE
SHIP SLIDES DOWN THE
RUNWAY, TOMORROW! BY
ACCIDENT, WE SHALL PUSH
SOMEONE OFF THE
STAND!

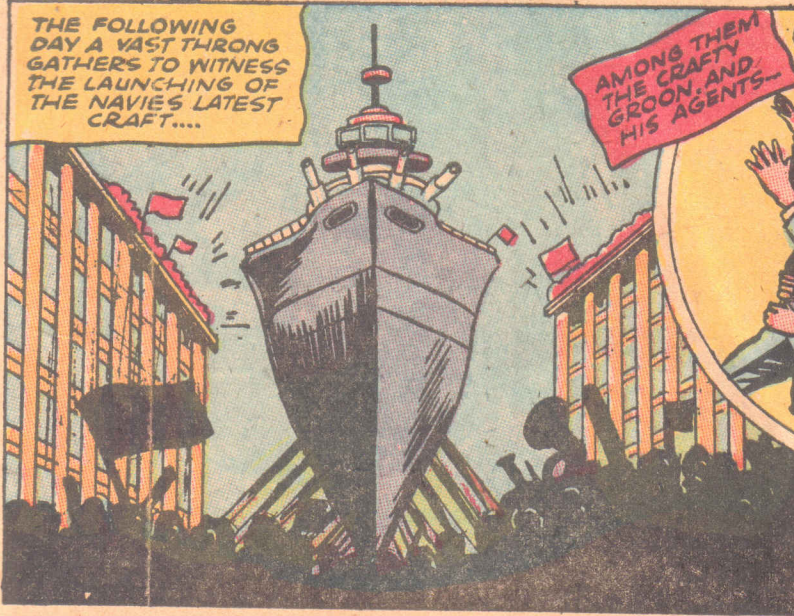


I GET IT!
THE CROWD
GETS EXCITED
ABOUT THE GUY
THAT FELL
THEN WE GO TO
WORK! EH
GROON?



CORRECT....
BUT REMEMBER
NO SLIP-UPS!

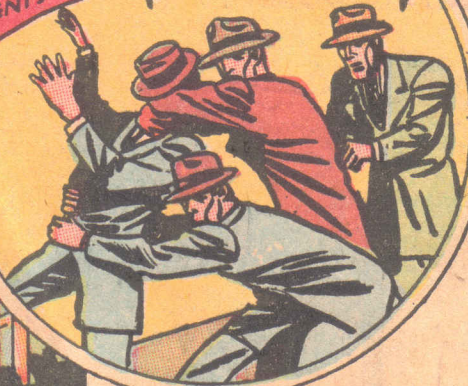
THE FOLLOWING DAY A VAST THROGG GATHERS TO WITNESS THE LAUNCHING OF THE NAVY'S LATEST CRAFT....



AMONG THEM THE CRAFTY GROOM AND HIS AGENTS...

HEY... OOOF!!

HE'LL DO... THROW HIM OVER!



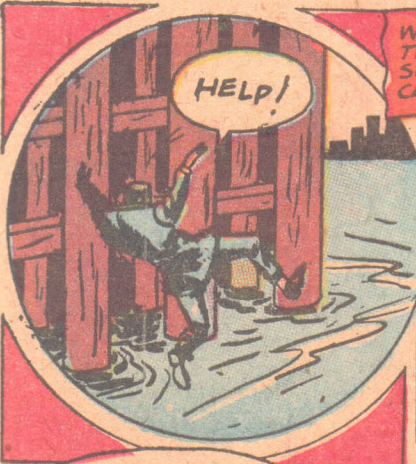
BUT FROM A LOW ROOFTOP CAPTAIN FEARLESS VIEWS THE SURROUNDINGS WITH AN ALERT EYE....

HELP!

WITH ALL ATTENTION TURNED TO THE SCENE OF THE CRY FOR HELP...

WHILE THE FOOLS RUSH TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS... WE CAN DROP THESE BOMBS ON THE SHIP!

HELP! HELP!



IT WAS A TRICK, TO DISTRACT ATTENTION...THOSE MEN ARE GOING TO BOMB THE SHIP!

...INSTANTLY THE VALIANT DEFENDER LEAPS INTO ACTION!

SWIFTLY CAPTAIN FEARLESS DARTS TOWARDS THE SABOTEUR

I HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE!



AS THE ASTONISHED GROUP RETURNS FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF THE CEREMONY

STAND BACK, ALL OF YOU... OR YOU'LL BE BLOWN TO KINGDOM COME!

THEY'RE GOING TO BOMB THE SHIP!

AIM FOR THE DECK! ONE.. TWO.. THR...!

WHEN SUDDENLY....

HOWDY RATS!

WHERE'D HE COME FROM?

WHO'S DAT GUY? DANIEL BOONE!

HE SAVED THE SHIP!

LOOK AT HIM BATTLE THE SABOTEURS!

CRACK!

UNNOTICED THE CRAFTY GROOM ATTEMPTS A DESPERATE LAST MINUTE STAND!

I'LL STOP THIS MEDDLER!

HOW'S THAT?

BUT THE CAPTAIN SENSES THE DANGER AND.....

THIS IS FOR TRYING TO SNEAK ONE IN!

OOOFR!

THE MARINES MOP UP THE GANG OF SABOTEURS!

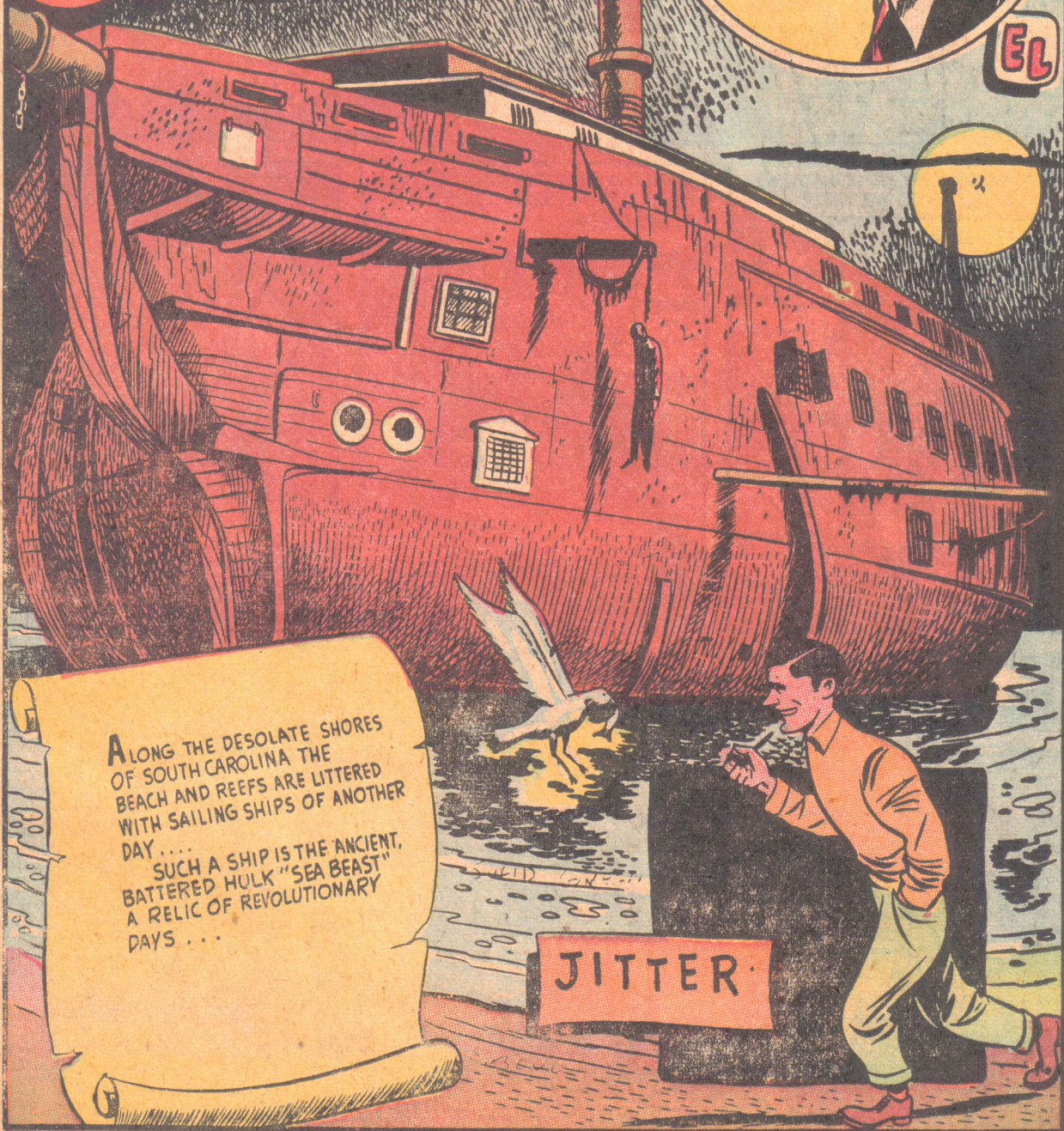
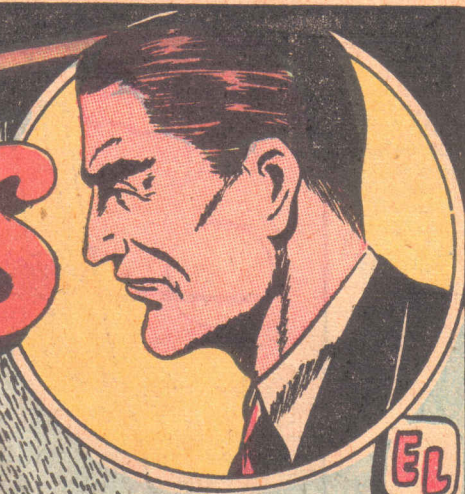
HE SURE DID A SWELL JOB ON THESE MUSS!

LOOK AT HIM GO!

WHO IS HE?

CAPTAIN FEARLESS RETURNS TO BATTLE A RING OF SABOTEURS AND FIFTH COLUMNISTS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF Captain FEARLESS comics

CAPTAIN STORMS



ALONG THE DESOLATE SHORES
OF SOUTH CAROLINA THE
BEACH AND REEFS ARE LITTERED
WITH SAILING SHIPS OF ANOTHER
DAY....

SUCH A SHIP IS THE ANCIENT,
BATTERED HULK "SEA BEAST"
A RELIC OF REVOLUTIONARY
DAYS....

JITTER

JUST OFF
SHORE AN
INTERESTED
SPECTATOR
WATCHES
THE ANCIENT
"SEA BEAST"

I COULD HAVE SWORN
I SAW A FLASH OF
LIGHT ON THAT TUB



THE FIGURE TURNS
INTO THE MOON-
LIGHT AND REVEALS THE
FACE OF CAPTAIN
HANNIBAL STORMS...
ACE INVESTIGATOR
OF THE NAVAL MARINE
INTELLIGENCE ...

ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL NATIVES THAT
SCOW IS SUPPOSED TO BE HAUNTED...
STILL THAT --- HEADQUARTERS TIP
WAS FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE ... I
THINK I'LL INVESTIGATE ...



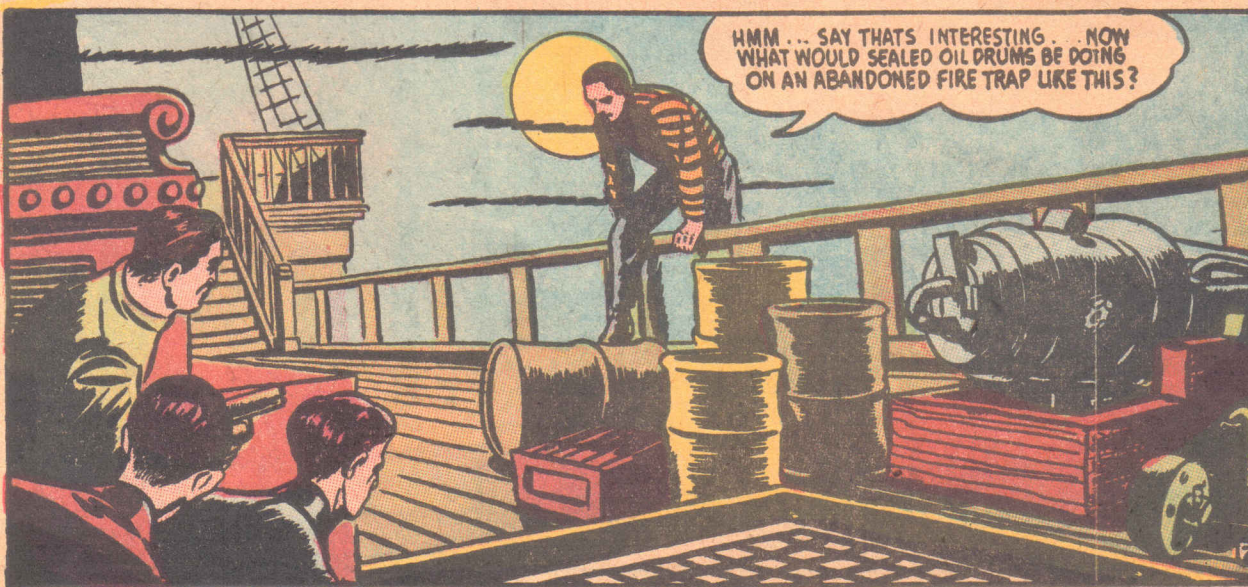
REMOVING HIS COAT CAPTAIN STORMS
QUIETLY SLIPS INTO THE WATER



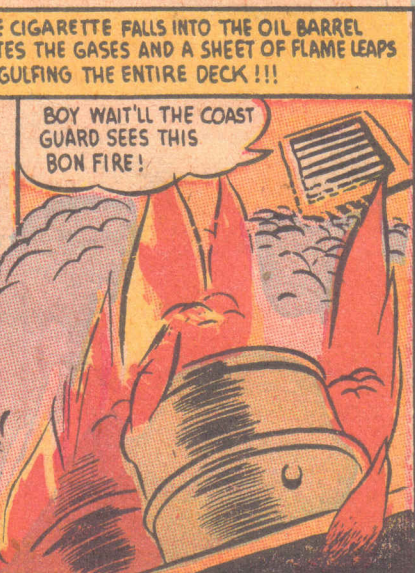
IF THERE IS ANYONE ON BOARD THEY'LL
NEVER TAKE ME FOR AN INVESTIGATOR
IN THIS OUTFIT.

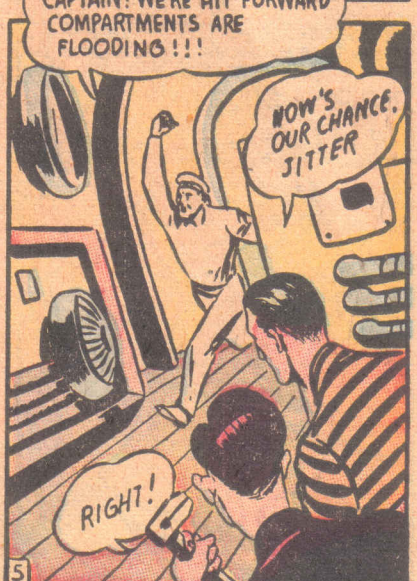
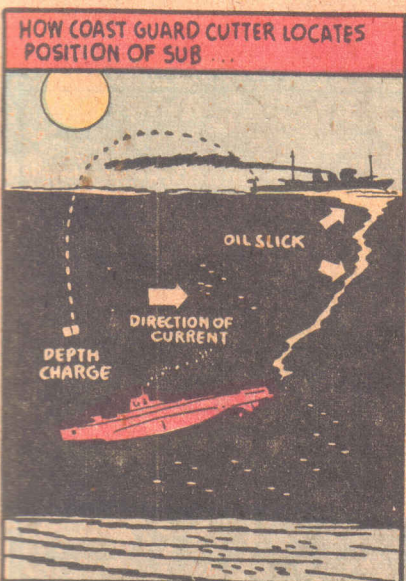
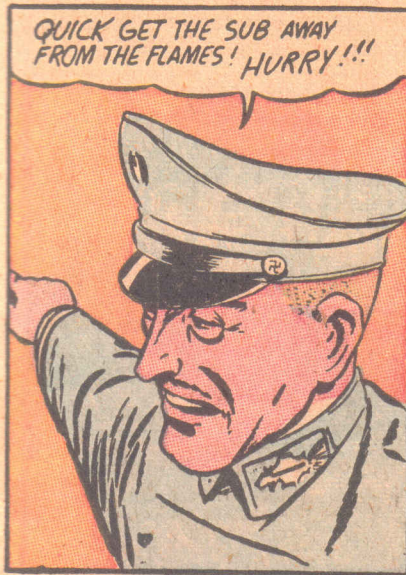


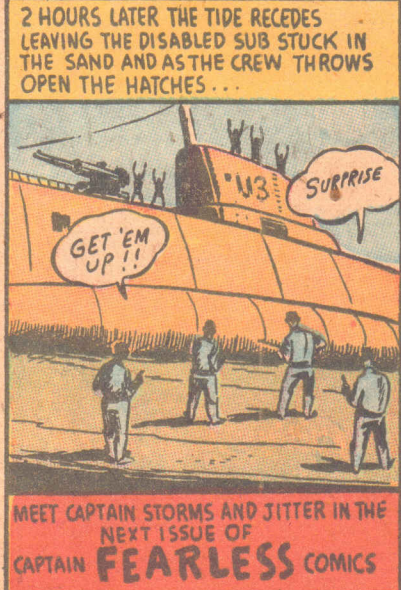
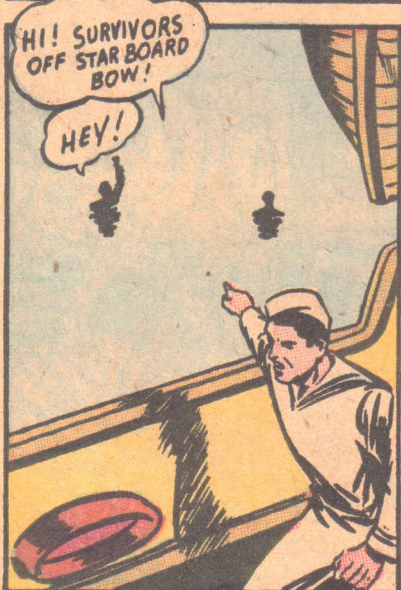
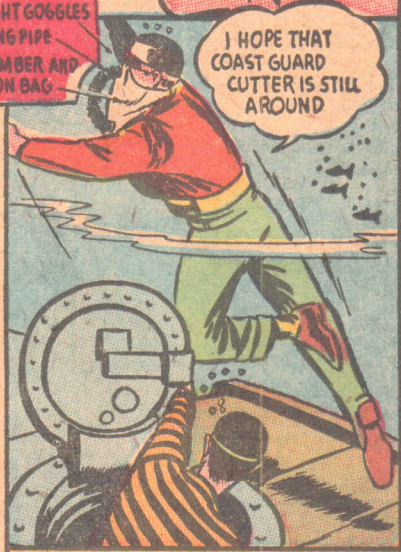
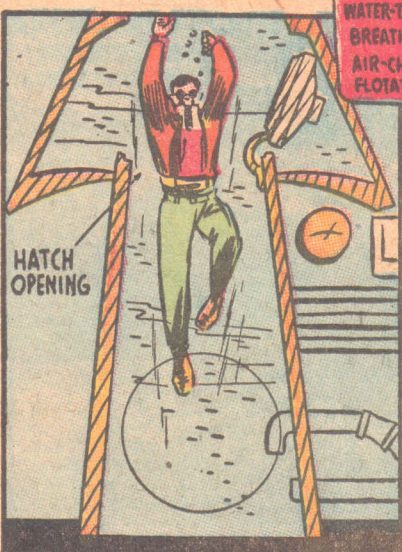
HMM ... SAY THAT'S INTERESTING ... NOW
WHAT WOULD SEALED OIL DRUMS BE DOING
ON AN ABANDONED FIRE TRAP LIKE THIS?











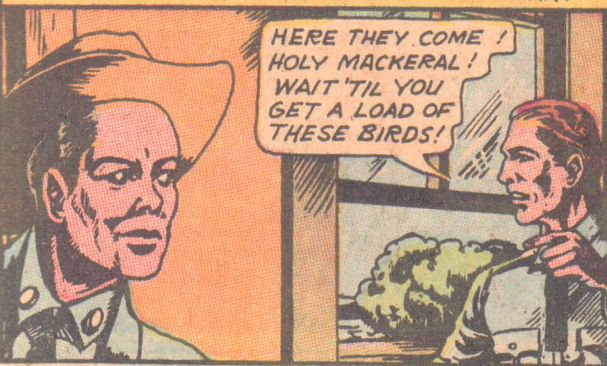
TROOPER "Pat" Corrigan OF THE STATE POLICE

AT THE OFFICE OF THE STATE POLICE - AT ROEMON, N.Y. TROOPER "BIFF" PETERS IS BEING WARNED BY THE SERGEANT IN CHARGE, FOR HIS PRACTICE OF KIDDING THE "ROOKIE" TROOPERS, TWO OF WHICH ARE DUE ANY MINUTE!

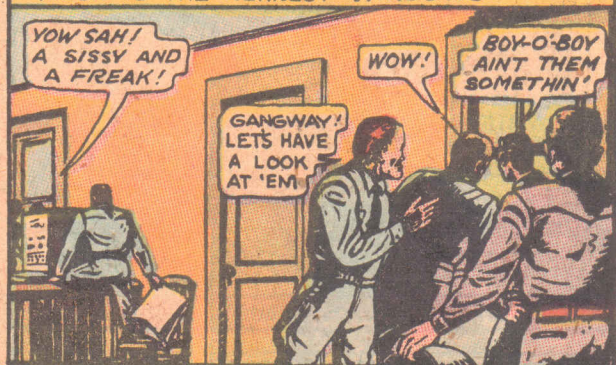
By CHARLES M. QUINLAN



THE MAN WATCHING AT THE WINDOW SUDDENLY CALLS OUT-- AND QUICKLY INTERRUPTS THE SERGEANT --



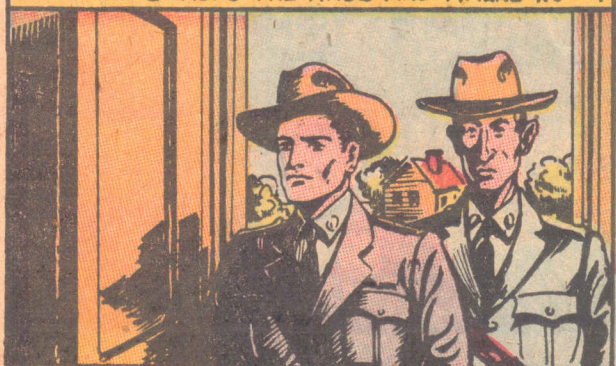
WITH ONE ACCORD THE MEN LEAP UP AND RUSH TO THE NEAREST WINDOWS --

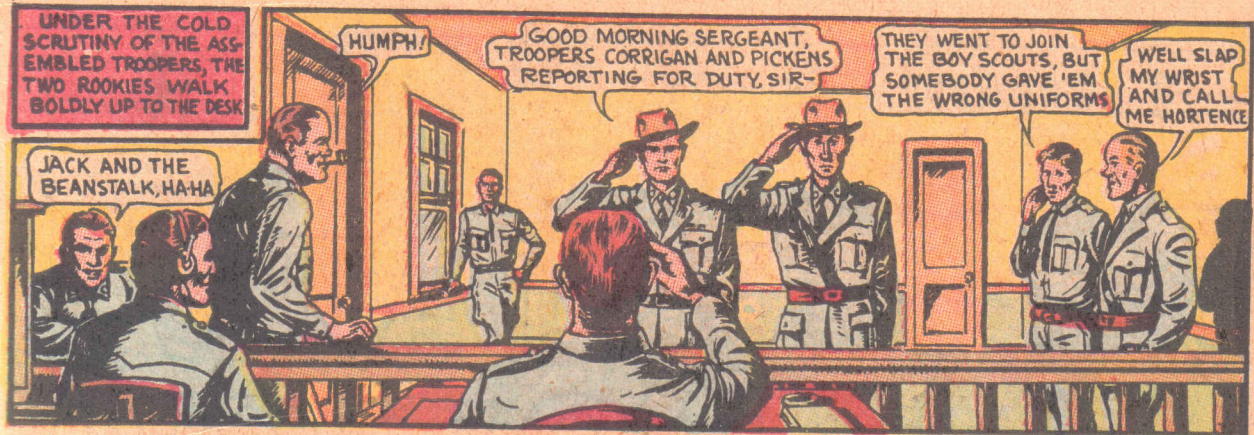


...AND STANDING HESITANTLY OUTSIDE ARE THE TWO ROOKIES
... INNOCENTLY UNAWARE OF THE INTENSE INTEREST THEIR APPEARANCE HAS AROUSED WITHIN --
!



THEN SUITING ACTION TO WORDS, THE YOUNG "ROOKIE" GRASPS THE KNOB AND WALKS IN --!





UNDER THE COLD SCRUTINY OF THE ASSEMBLED TROOPERS, THE TWO ROOKIES WALK BOLDLY UP TO THE DESK

HUMPH!

GOOD MORNING SERGEANT, TROOPERS CORRIGAN AND PICKENS REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR-

THEY WENT TO JOIN THE BOY SCOUTS, BUT SOMEBODY GAVE 'EM THE WRONG UNIFORMS

WE'LL SLAP MY WRIST AND CALL ME HORTENCE

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK, HAHA

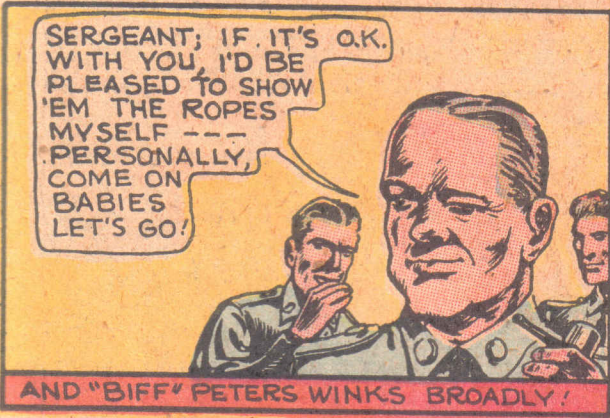


ALLRIGHT MEN! LETS HAVE A LITTLE QUIET PLEASE!



...THESE MEN HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THIS POST FOR DUTY- I WILL EXPECT ALL OF YOU TO GIVE THEM COMPLETE COOPERATION AND SHOW THEM THE ROPES -- FIX YOUR TIE PICKENS

Y-Y-YES SIR-



SERGEANT; IF IT'S O.K. WITH YOU, I'D BE PLEASED TO SHOW 'EM THE ROPES MYSELF --- PERSONALLY, COME ON BABIES LET'S GO!

AND "BIFF" PETERS WINKS BROADLY!



UNKNOWN TO THE MEN, PAT'S SHARP EARS HAVE CAUGHT ALL OF THE WHISPERED WISECRACKS!

AND WHAT ROPES "BIFF" WILL SHOW'EM

WAIT DON'T GO NOW, LET 'EM GET OUTSIDE FIRST!



OUTDOORS, PAT SUDDENLY ASTOUNDS THE TROOPERS!

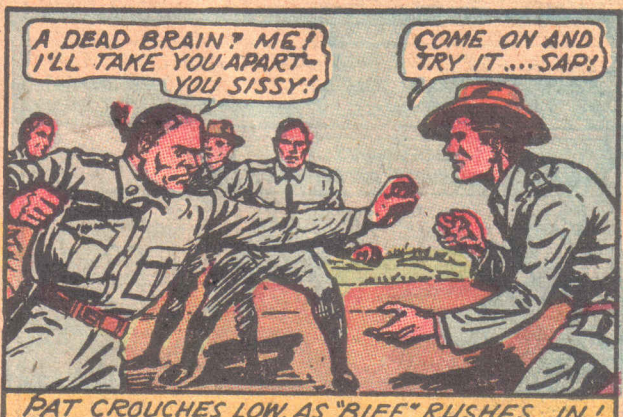
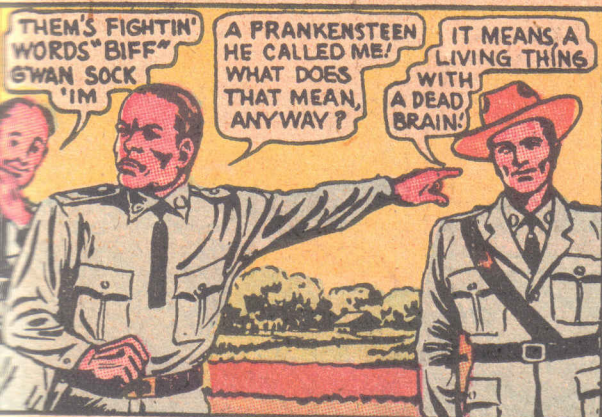
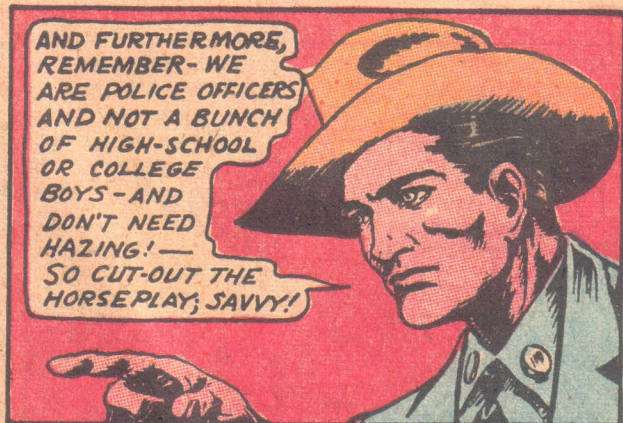
HUH?

JUST A MINUTE ALL OF YOU SMART GUYS!



HIS EYES BLAZE ANGRILY AS HE CONTINUES!

WE KNOW WE'RE ONLY "ROOKIES AND I'M NOT TRYING TO BE A SMART ALECK, BUT SOME OF THOSE REMARKS I OVERHEARD IN THERE DIDN'T SOUND LIKE KIDDING! ... NOW WHAT'S THE IDEA?



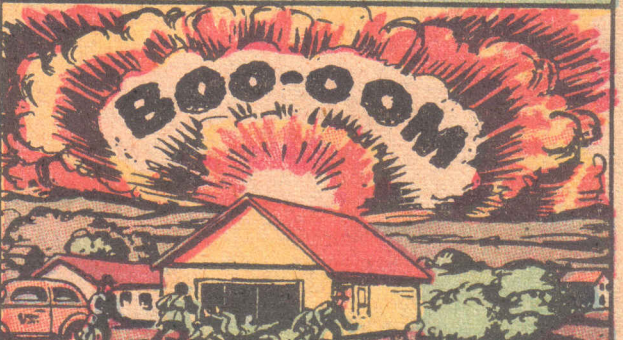
THEN AS THE ENRAGED TROOPER SWINGS! HE IS LIFTED BODILY INTO THE AIR!!!



--- AND HURLED HEADLONG INTO THE STARTLED GROUP OF TROOPERS ---



SUDDENLY THE GROUND SHAKES AND TREMBLES, AND AS THE MEN GO DOWN IN A HEAP- A TERRIFIC BLAST RENTS THE AIR!!



FOR A MOMENT THE MEN ARE DAZED!... BUT AS THEY RECOVER.... "SLIM" PICKENS, WHO WAS NOT IN ON THE BRAWL, QUICKLY EXPLAINS!

IT WAS A B-B-BLAST, R.PAT
A 'B-BIG ONE, OVER
THIS-A-WAY!

BLAST?
HUH? WHERE?



THE FULL IMPORT SUDDENLY DAWNS ON "BIFF"!

YE GODS! MEN, LOOK!
SMOKE !...IT'S THE PONTDU
MUNITIONS PLANT!
COME ON!
GET GOIN'

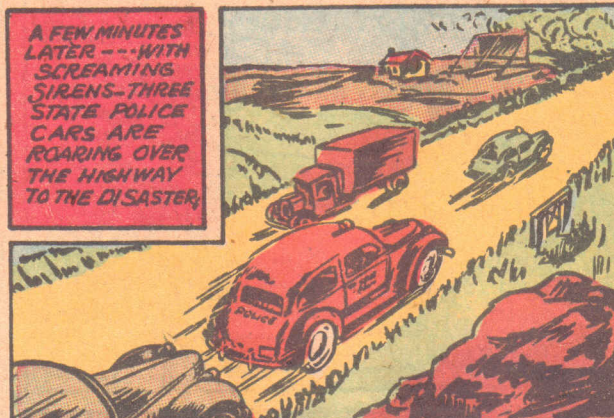


- THEIR PERSONAL GRIEVANCES ARE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN IN THE URGENT CALL TO DUTY AS TROOPERS WILDLY RUSH TO THEIR CARS!

PICKENS!-CORRIGAN!... COME ON
YOU BOYS RIDE WITH ME!

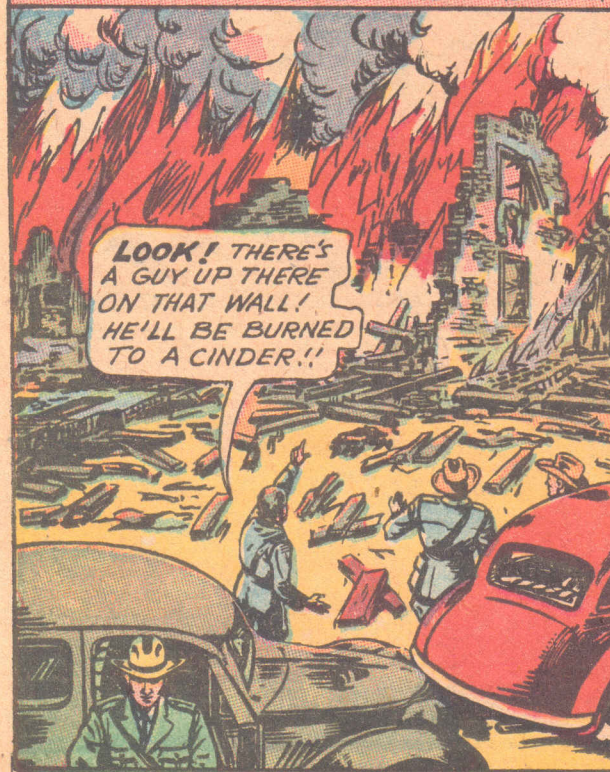


A FEW MINUTES
LATER ---WITH
SCREAMING
SIRENS-THREE
STATE POLICE
CARS ARE
ROARING OVER
THE HIGHWAY
TO THE DISASTER

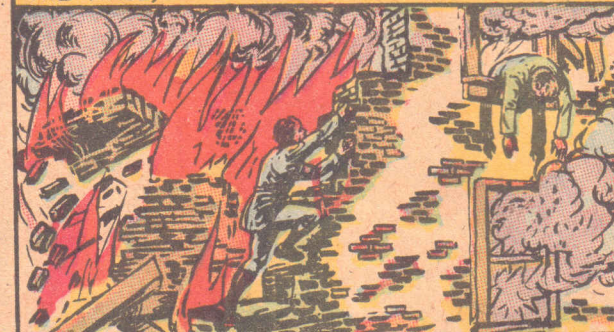


- THE TERRIFIC FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION
IS IMMEDIATELY APPARENT AS THE TROOPERS
ARRIVE AT THE SCENE OF THE CATASTROPHE!

LOOK! THERE'S
A GUY UP THERE
ON THAT WALL!
HE'LL BE BURNED
TO A CINDER!!

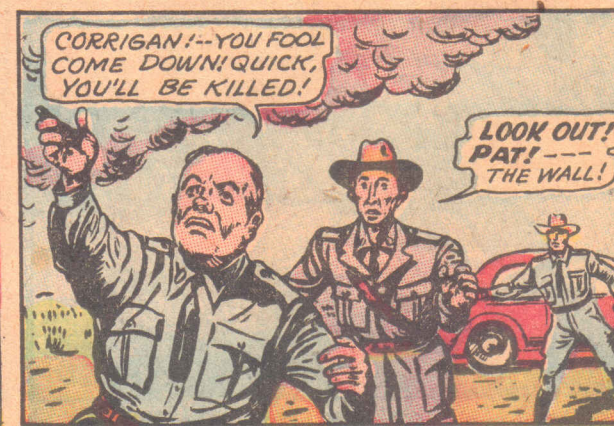


BEFORE ANYONE REALIZES WHAT HE IS DOING,
CORRIGAN IS SCRAMBLING UP THE EDGE OF
THE WALL, LIKE A MOUNTAIN GOAT !!!----



CORRIGAN!--YOU FOOL
COME DOWN! QUICK,
YOU'LL BE KILLED!

LOOK OUT!
PAT!--
THE WALL!



BUT... THE WARNING COMES TOO LATE...! WITH A ROAR THE WEAKENED WALL COLLAPSES IN A CLOUD OF SMOKE AND FLAME!!! UNMINDFUL OF THEIR OWN DANGER, "BIFF" AND "SLIM" DASH INTO THE FLAMING MASS!



MY GOD!
THE POOR KID!

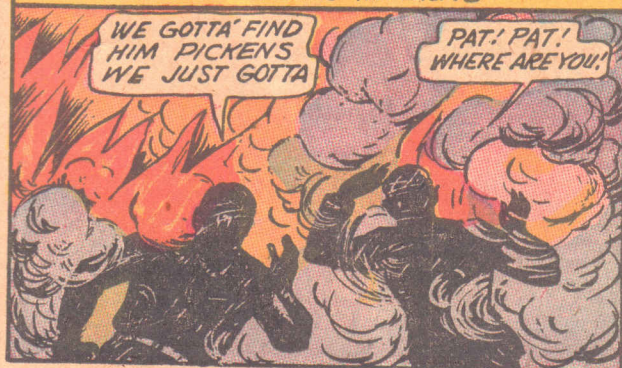
PAT!!

HIDDEN FROM VIEW IN THE DENSE SMOKE "BIFF" AND "SLIM" CAN NOT SEE PAT CORRIGAN WHO WITH THE UNCONCIOUS MAN IN HIS ARMS, IS SKILLFULLY RIDING THE COLLAPSING WALL AS IT FALLS!



MISTER IT'S A GOOD THING YOUR OUT! OR THIS THRILL WOULD BE A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR YOUR HEART!

THEN AS "BIFF" AND "SLIM" DISAPPEAR INTO THE RAGING INFERNO---



WE GOTTA FIND HIM PICKENS WE JUST GOTTA

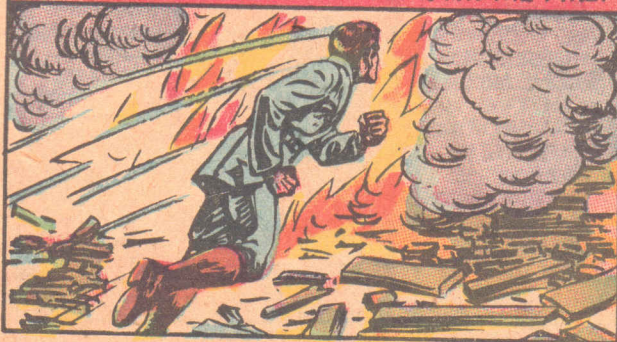
PAT! PAT! WHERE ARE YOU!

-- PAT UNSCATHED AND WITH THE UNCONCIOUS MAN IN HIS ARMS, EMERGES ON THE OTHER SIDE!!

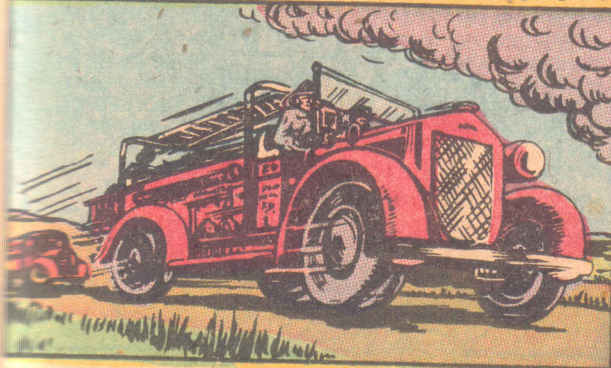


HEY! SOMEBODY TAKE THIS GUY! THERE MAY BE SOME MORE LIKE HIM IN THERE!

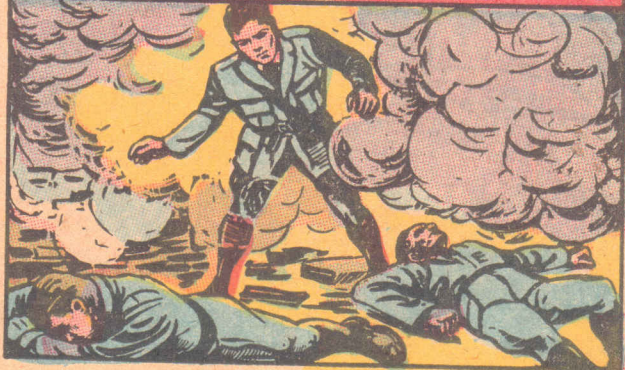
-- AND HURRIEDLY TURNING HIS LIMP BURDEN OVER TO ANOTHER TROOPER, THE RECKLESS ROOKIE AGAIN DASHES HEADLONG INTO THE FIRE!



MEANWHILE... FIRE APPARATUS AND AMBULANCES ARE POURING IN FROM ALL DIRECTIONS!

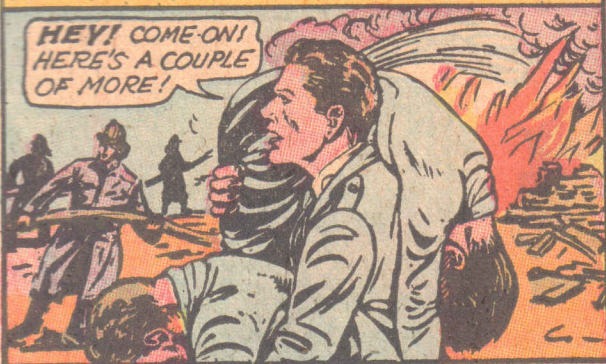


STUMBLING AROUND IN THE THICK SMOKE, PAT LOCATES TWO MORE UNCONCIOUS VICTIMS



WITH AN UNCONCIOUS MAN ON HIS SHOULDER,
AND ANOTHER UNDER HIS ARM PAT COMES OUT!

HEY! COME ON!
HERE'S A COUPLE
OF MORE!



PULMOTORS--! OXYGEN
TANKS! COME
HERE QUICK!
STEP ON IT!
HURRY!



AS SOON AS
THE FIRE IS
WELL UNDER
CONTROL
THE TROOPERS
HURRIEDLY
PROWL AROUND
IN THE
STILL SMOKING
EMBERS, IN
SEARCH OF
ANYTHING THAT
MIGHT GIVE
A CLUE TO
THE CAUSE OF
THE EXPLOSION!



WELL IT DONT LOOK
LIKE WE'LL
FIND MUCH
IN THIS MESS, SARGE
--SAY--
WHAT'S THAT?

THEN AS HE LAYS THEM GENTLY ON THE GROUND
HE SUDDENLY DISCOVERS THEIR IDENTITY!

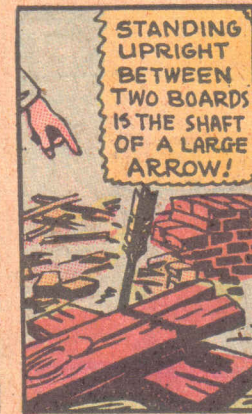
"SLIM!"
"BIFF!"



WHILE THE FIREMEN BATTLE THE FLAMES...THE
RESCUE SQUAD WORKS ON "SLIM" AND "BIFF"!



STANDING
UPRIGHT
BETWEEN
TWO BOARDS
IS THE SHAFT
OF A LARGE
ARROW!



AN ARROW
SHAFT!?
WHAT'S IT
DOING
HERE?

MAYBE THIS
PLACE WAS
ATTACKED BY
INDIANS! COME
ON KID
FORGET
IT!



CORRIGAN, SAYING THAT MAN ON THE WALL WAS
A GREAT PIECE OF WORK AND THE WAY "BIFF"
AND "SLIM" WENT AFTER YOU--

WHEN THEY
THOUGHT YOU
WERE
TRAPPED
WAS SPLENDID
I'M PROUD
TO HAVE MEN
LIKE THAT
WITH ME!

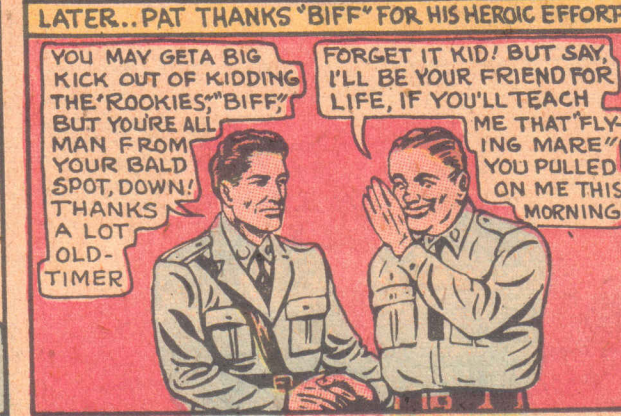
SO-O
THATS
WHY
THEY
WENT IN
THERE
EH?!



LATER..PAT THANKS "BIFF" FOR HIS HEROIC EFFORT

YOU MAY GET A BIG
KICK OUT OF KIDDING
THE "ROOKIES," "BIFF"
BUT YOU'RE ALL
MAN FROM
YOUR BALD
SPOT, DOWN!
THANKS
A LOT
OLD-
TIMER

FORGET IT KID! BUT SAY,
I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND FOR
LIFE, IF YOU'LL TEACH
ME THAT "FLY-
ING MARE"
YOU PULLED
ON ME THIS
MORNING



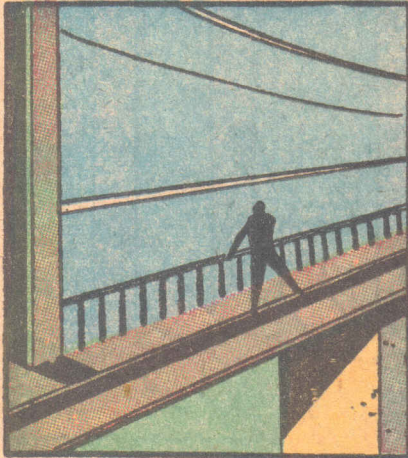
mi: MIRACLE

MR. MIRACLE! MASTER
OF MEN AND POSSESSOR
OF ALL THE STRANGE ODIC
POWERS OF THE COSMIC!

HERE BEGINS THE FAN-
TASTIC STORY OF THIS
NEW ROBIN HOOD WHO BY
A TRICK OF FATE ACQUIRES
UNBELIEVABLE CONTROL
OVER EERY FORCES WHICH
HE USES TO BRING FREEDOM
AND JUSTICE TO ALL OPP-
RESSED PEOPLE.....



...A LONE FIGURE CLIMBS OVER THE GUARD RAIL --- A LONG MOMENT OF HESITATION --- THEN A SUDDEN STEP TO THE EDGE ---



... AND A LEAP ---DOWN INTO THE DARK OILY WATERS HE PLUNGES ---

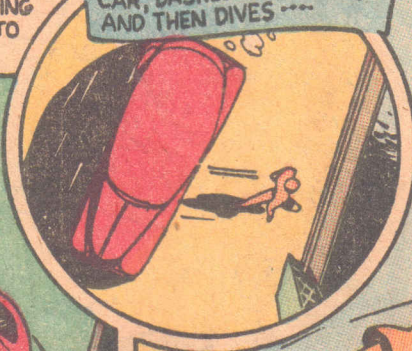
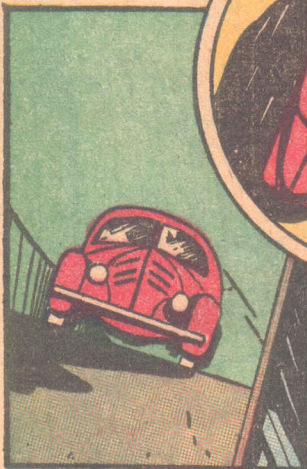


A SPLIT SECOND LATER HE CRASHES INTO THE RIVER FAR BELOW

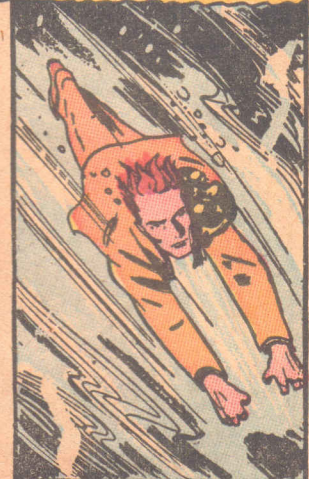
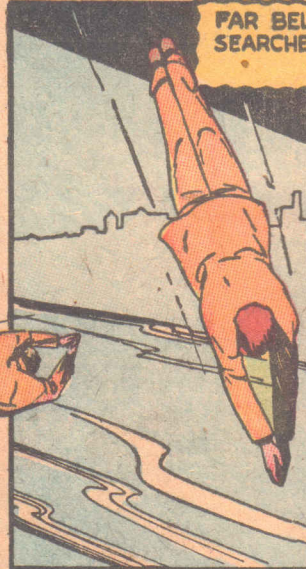


MEANWHILE UP ON THE BRIDGE, A SPEEDING CAR SCREECHES TO A STOP

A MAN JUMPS FROM THE CAR, DASHES TO THE RAIL AND THEN DIVES ---



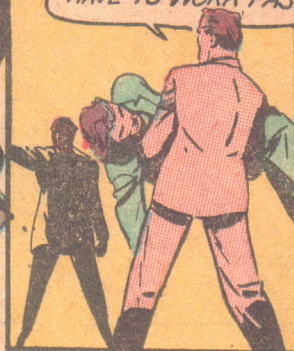
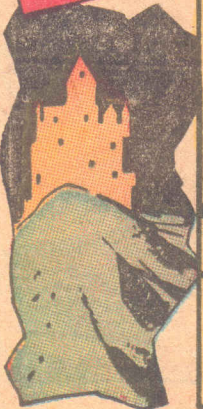
FAR BELOW THE SURFACE HE SEARCHES FOR THE WOULD-BE SUICIDE



TWO HOURS LATER IN A GREAT STONE HOUSE FAR UP IN THE HILLS

CARRY HIM UP TO THE TOWER - QUICKLY! WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!

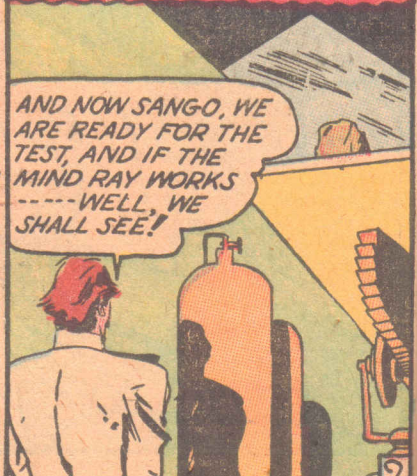
THIS MAN IS DYING. PROFESSOR RIETZ. YOU WILL HAVE TO WORK FAST



FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER THE UNCONSCIOUS FIGURE IS PLACED ON A LONG TABLE



AS PROFESSOR RIETZ THROWS THE SWITCH THE TABLE MOVES UP TOWARD THE CEILING FACING A HUGE MIRROR



AND NOW SANGO, WE ARE READY FOR THE TEST, AND IF THE MIND RAY WORKS --- WELL, WE SHALL SEE!

FOR NEARLY
TWENTY
FOUR HOURS
THE OLD
SCIENTIST
ANXIOUSLY
AWAITS THE
OUTCOME
OF HIS
EXPERIMENT

ENOUGH, SANGO! SHUT
OFF THE CONTROLS
AND LOWER THE
TABLE!

WE MUST
WAIT UNTIL
HE AWAKENS!
THEN WE'LL
SEE.

ALL RIGHT
PROFESSOR,
YOU CAN
HAND OVER
THOSE PLANS
NOW!

SANGO! WHAT IS
THE MEANING OF
THIS?--PUT DOWN
THAT GUN--IS--
IS--THIS A JOKE?

NO PROFESSOR,
THIS IS NOT A
JOKE! I HAVE WORK-
ED WITH YOU FOR
FIVE YEARS, WATCH-
ING AND WAITING
WHILE YOU TOILED
TO COMPLETE THE
"MIND-RAY." NOW!

I SHALL TAKE THE CREDIT
FOR THE INVENTION--
MY COUNTRY WILL PAY
ME WELL FOR THE "RAY"
--EVEN AT THIS MOM-
ENT MY CONFEDERATES
ARE WAITING FOR THE
PLANS!

FIRST I WILL SMASH THIS
EQUIPMENT SO NONE CAN
DUPLICATE THE "MIND-RAY"!

AND NOW THAT LEAVES
YOU, PROFESSOR RIETZ.
WE ARE THE ONLY ONES
WHO KNOW OF THIS DEVICE
BUT WITH YOU OUT OF
THE WAY....

I HATE TO DO
THIS, PROFESSOR
BUT, OF COURSE,
YOU REALIZE
THAT DEAD MEN
TELL NO TALES!

HALF
AN HOUR
LATER

WH--WHERE AM I--
HEY-- WHO'S
THAT?!

YOU'VE BEEN
SHOT!

YOU HAVE RECOV-
ERED--IT WORKED!
I--I--SAVED YOU
FROM COMMITTING
SUICIDE--I HAVE
GIVEN YOU SOME-
THING TO LIVE
FOR--YOU HAVE
POWER, POWER
THAT WILL MAKE YOU
MASTER OF MEN

MY ASSISTANT SANGO HAS
STOLEN THE PLANS OF THE
"RAY"--YOU MUST GET THEM
AND DESTROY THEM. YOU
ALONE MUST BE THE ONLY
PERSON TO BENEFIT FROM
THE "RAY"--IT HAS GIVEN
YOU POWER TO PERFORM
MIRACLES! GO NOW--THE
PLANS--DESTROY THEM!

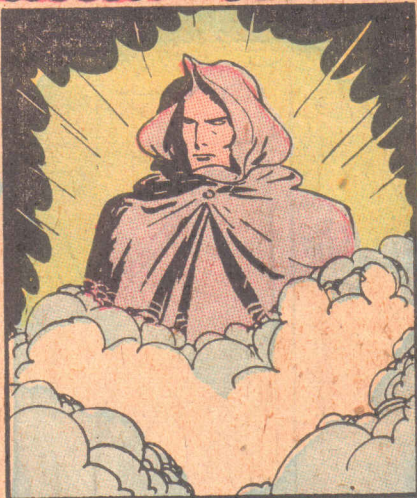
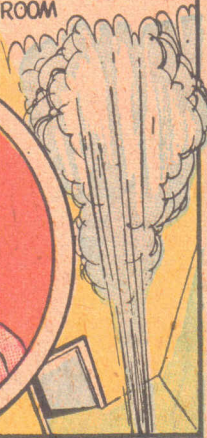
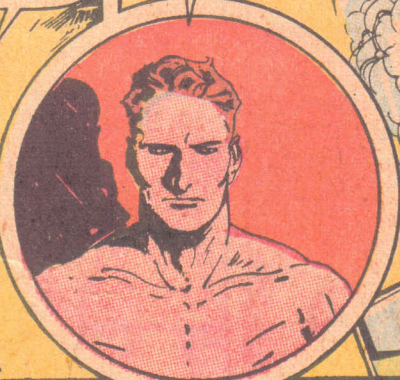
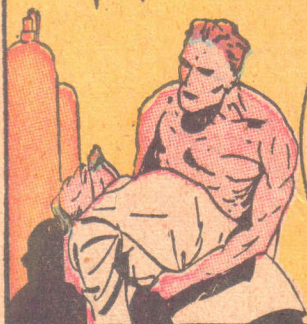
BUT PROMISE THAT YOU WILL USE YOUR POWERS SOLELY TO HELP OTHERS AND TO RID THIS TURBULENT WORLD OF ITS EVIL DOERS! I-I--Oooo

I PROMISE THE PLANS WILL BE DESTROYED!

HE'S DEAD! IF WHAT HE SAID IS TRUE, I CAN PERFORM MIRACLES, MAYBE I CAN DISAPPEAR

AS HE SPEAKS THE WORD, DISAPPEAR. THERE IS A PUFF OF SMOKE AND HE VANISHES FROM THE ROOM

A SECOND LATER, HE REAPPEARS IN A STRANGE GARB!



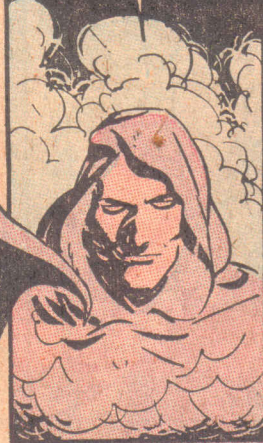
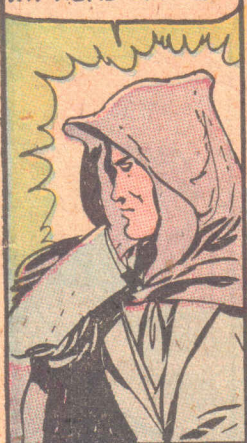
WHEW! THIS IS FANTASTIC. TO THINK THAT I HAVE ALL THIS POWER MAKES MY HEAD WHIRL--

MIRACLE--MIRACLE-- THAT'S IT! I SHALL BE KNOWN FROM NOW, AS MR. MIRACLE!

NOW! TO FIND SANGO AND GET THOSE PLANS

MEANWHILE, ON BOARD A FREIGHTER JUST LEAVING THE DOCKS --- SANGO DRINKS A TOAST

HA! CAPTAIN WU, WE DRINK TO THE PLANS OF THE "MIND-RAY" AND A PROFIT OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



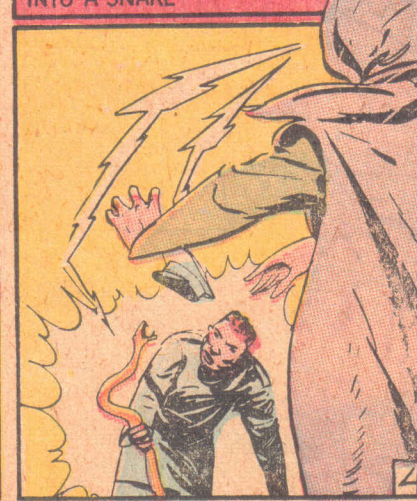
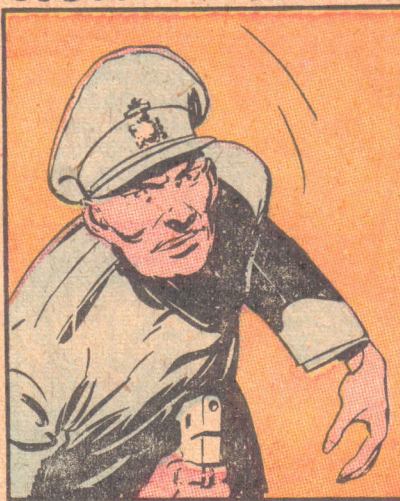
SUDDENLY, THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH --- AND STARING COLDLY AT THEM IS MR. MIRACLE!

DRAWING HIS PISTOL--CAPTAIN WU AIMS AT MR. MIRACLE---

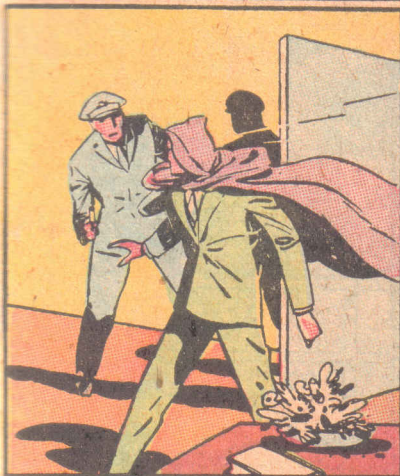
MR MIRACLE GESTURES AND THE GUN INSTANTLY TURNS INTO A SNAKE----



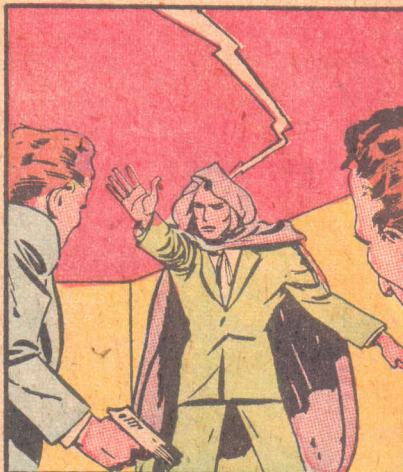
WHA--WHO ARE YOU WHAT IS THIS?



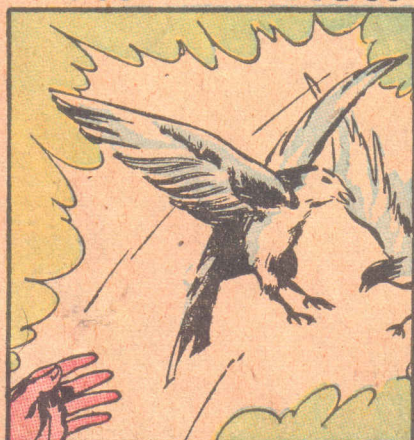
**SUDDENLY THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN
AND TWO ARMED SAILORS RUSH AT
MR. MIRACLE ---**



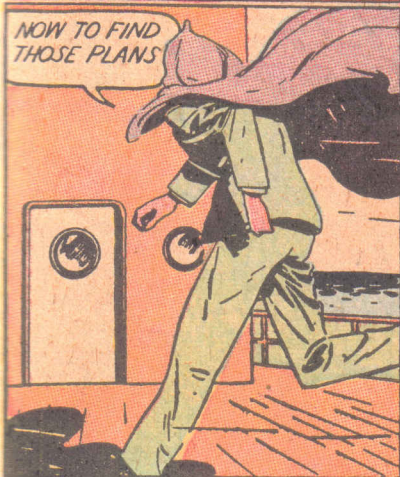
**---AS HE RAISES HIS ARM ----
SANGO DASHES MADLY OUT OF
THE ROOM---**



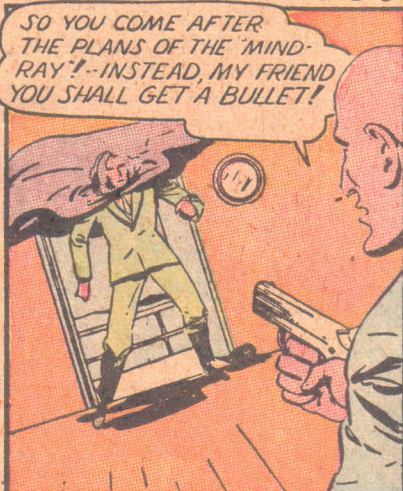
**THE MEN FALL BACK IN ASTON-
ISHMENT; THEIR PISTOLS TURN
TO BIRDS AND FLY SWIFTLY FROM
THEIR HANDS ---**



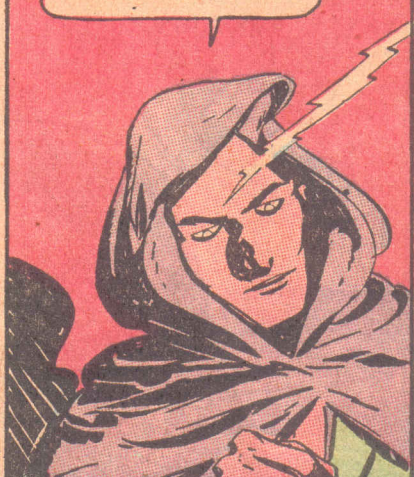
**LEAVING THE SAILORS STANDING IN
AMAZEMENT MR. MIRACLE HURRIES
AFTER SANGO ---**



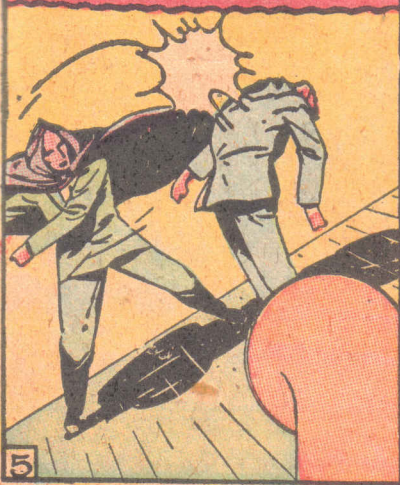
**AS HE RUNS OUT OF THE CABIN,
SANGO FACES HIM WITH DRAWN GUN**



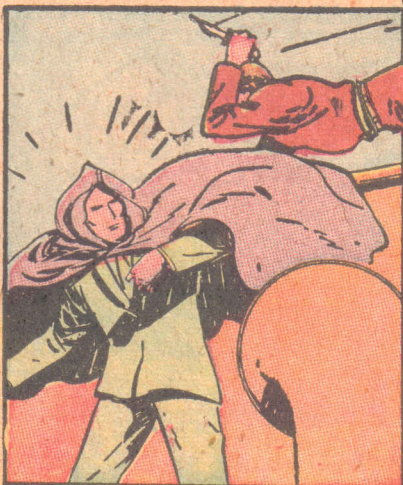
**PUT DOWN THAT GUN, SANGO,
OR BETTER YET, I WILL TAKE
IT FROM YOU!**



**SWINGING A POWERFUL LEFT--MR.
MIRACLE SENDS THE MURDERER
SPINNING ACROSS THE DECK--**



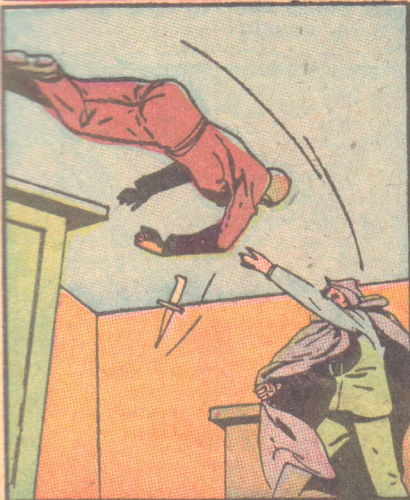
**BUT AT THAT MOMENT ONE OF
SANGO'S MEN, KNIFE IN HAND
DIVES AT THE MAGICIAN!**



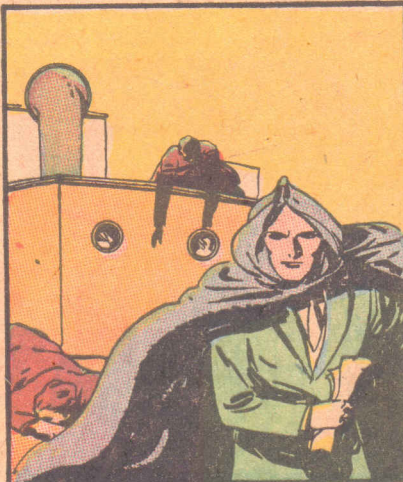
**CALMLY MR. MIRACLE
RAISES HIS HAND....**



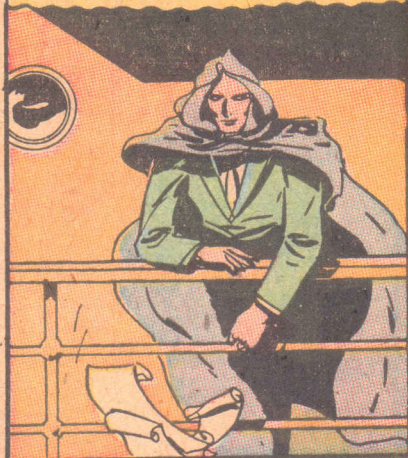
--AND THE THUG IS HELD
SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR---



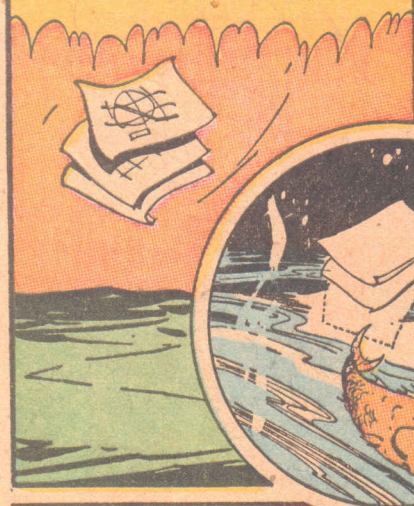
QUICKLY MR. MIRACLE REMOVES
THE PLANS OF THE "MIND-RAY" FROM
SANGO'S POCKET---



STEPPING TO THE RAIL, HE DROPS
THEM OVERBOARD AND AS THEY
FLOAT DOWN TOWARDS THE WATER,
HE MAKES A GESTURE----

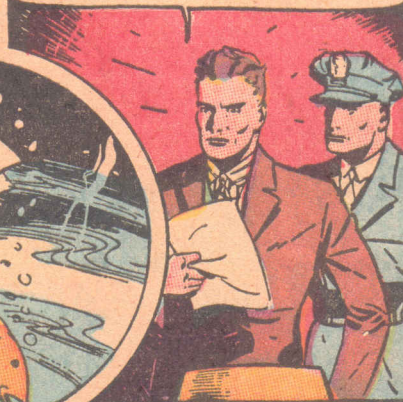


SLOWLY THE PLANS TRANSFORM
INTO A SMALL FISH THAT SWIMS
RAPIDLY AWAY!



MEANWHILE, AT THE CITY
POLICE STATION----

WHAT'S THIS?- A MESSAGE! IT
SAYS PROFESSOR REITZ HAS
JUST BEEN FOUND MURDERED!



SUDDENLY, A BLINDING FLASH
FILLS THE ROOM!

LOOK ON THE FREIGHTER
"SEA STAR" THERE
YOU WILL FIND
THE MURDERER



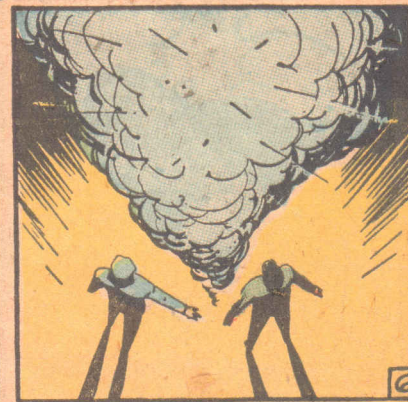
BUT--BUT WHO ARE
YOU --HOW DO YOU
KNOW WHO KILLED
REITZ?--HOW---HOW
DID YOU GET IN HERE??



YOU CAN NEVER KNOW! THAT
IS ONE THING I CANNOT
REVEAL! MAYBE IT'S A MIRACLE!
GOOD DAY GENTLEMEN-- 'TIL
WE MEET AGAIN!



WITH A FAREWELL WAVE, AND AN
ENIGMATIC SMILE MR. MIRACLE
VANISHES IN A CLOUD OF SMOKE



MR. MIRACLE REAPPEARS IN ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURE
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF CAPTAIN FEARLESS COMICS

CITIZEN

SMITH

**SON
OF THE
UNKNOWN
SOLDIER**

...HE'S JUST PLAIN
JOHN SMITH,
AMERICAN. HE
COULD BE YOUR
NEXT DOOR NEIGH-
BOR - HE COULD
BE YOU, OR YOU,
OR I! THIS IS
THE STORY OF
CITIZEN
SMITH!....

LUNCH TIME, OUTSIDE A
PLANE FACTORY ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF THE NATION'S
CAPITOL....

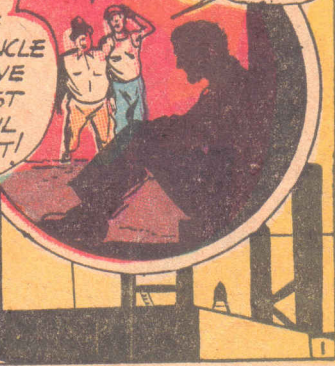
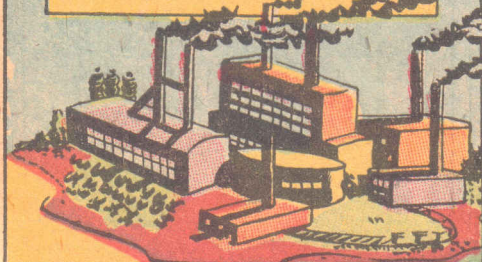
LOOK, THERE'S
SMITH, ALONE
BY HIMSELF
AS USUAL!

I CAN'T
MAKE THAT
GUY OUT!

AS THE HEAVY HAND OF
DICTATORSHIP STRIKES
RUTHLESSLY IN EUROPE,
AMERICA'S DEFENSE PRO-
GRAM AND ARMS PRODUCT-
ION MOVES AHEAD TO
FULL SPEED...

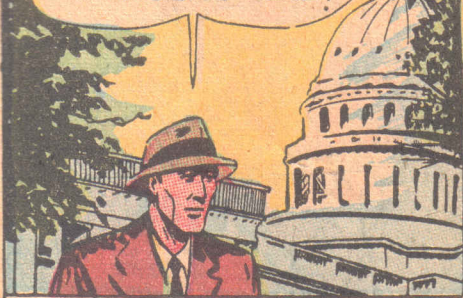
SINCE THEY'VE
PASSED THE
SELECTIVE SERVICE
BILL, THE ARMY'S
BEEN OVERRUN
WITH VOLUNTEERS!

...AND, JIM,
FROM THE
LOOKS OF
THINGS, UNCLE
SAM'LL HAVE
THE MOST
POWERFUL
ARMY YET!



THAT NIGHT AS SMITH WANDERS
BY THE NATION'S CAPITOL, STRANGE
THOUGHTS RACE THRU HIS MIND...

MY PARENTS!...MAYBE
HE WAS A DOCTOR...OR A
FACTORY WORKER...SHE
...SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN
A SOCIETY WOMAN! SOMEDAY
I'LL FIND OUT WHO
MY FOLKS WERE!

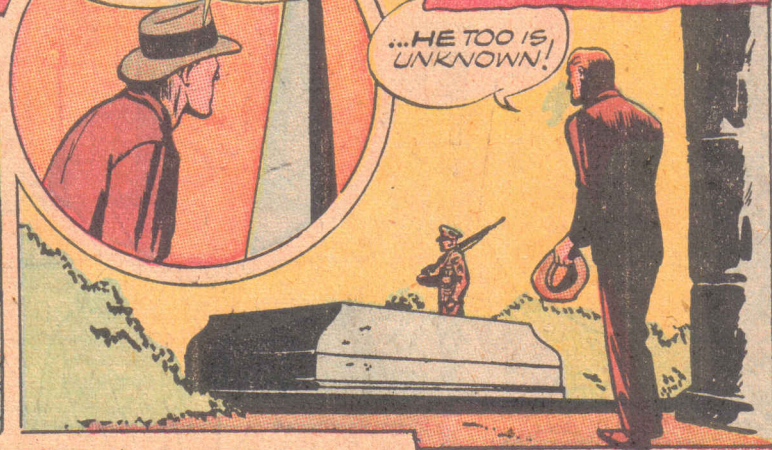


...UNTIL THEN I'VE
GOT TO BE ALONE IN
THE WORLD...



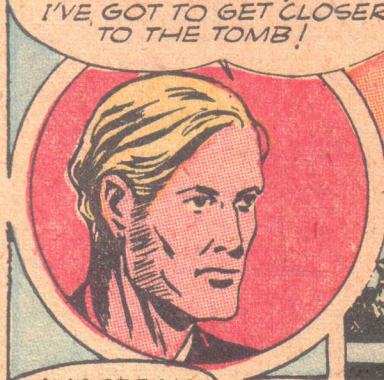
...UNCONSCIOUSLY, HIS
WANDERINGS DRAW
HIM BEFORE THE TOMB
OF THE UNKNOWN
SOLDIER...

...HE TOO IS
UNKNOWN!

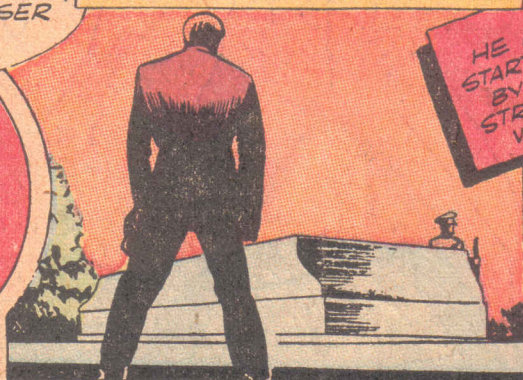


HE IS THE GREATEST
EMBLEM OF AMERICA'S
FIGHTERS! THE SHRINE
OF PRESIDENTS!...GOSH!
I'VE GOT TO GET CLOSER
TO THE TOMB!

A STRANGE MIST SURROUNDS
THE LONELY FIGURE OF CITIZEN
SMITH, AS HE BOWS HIS HEAD
IN REVERENCE...AND SUDDENLY...



HE IS
STARTLED
BY A
STRANGE
VOICE...



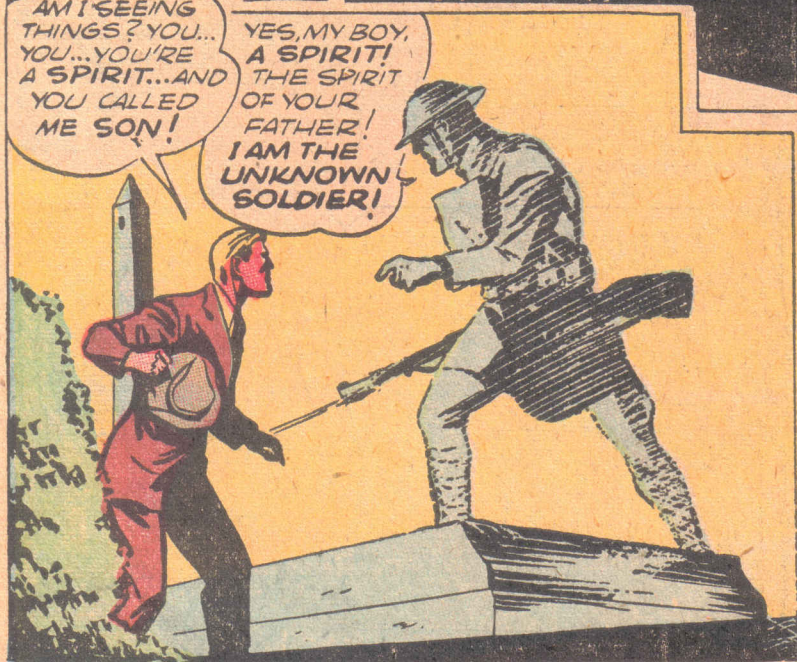
I KNEW YOU'D
COME, SON!

WHY!...
IT'S A
VOICE! I
DON'T SEE
ANYONE...
W...WHO..?



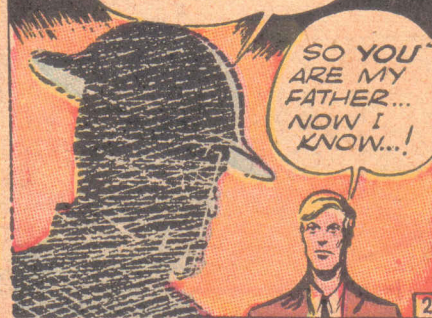
AM I SEEING
THINGS? YOU...
YOU...YOU'RE
A SPIRIT...AND
YOU CALLED
ME SON!

YES, MY BOY,
A SPIRIT!
THE SPIRIT
OF YOUR
FATHER!
I AM THE
UNKNOWN
SOLDIER!



I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR
YOU TO BE DRAWN TO
ME...AND AT LAST YOU'VE
COME! MY BOY THE IDEALS
FOR WHICH I DIED ARE IN
GRAVE DANGER...AMERICA
NEEDS MEN LIKE US TO
PROTECT THOSE
IDEALS...

SO YOU
ARE MY
FATHER...
NOW I
KNOW...!

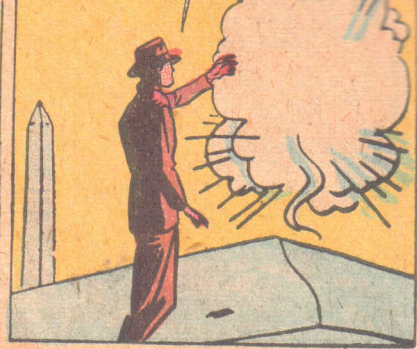
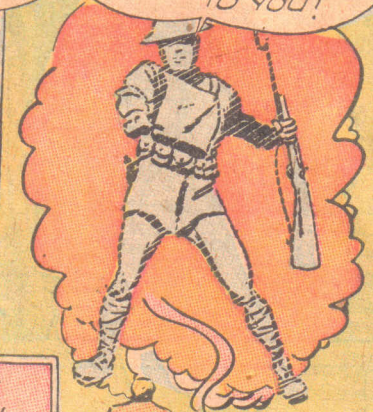
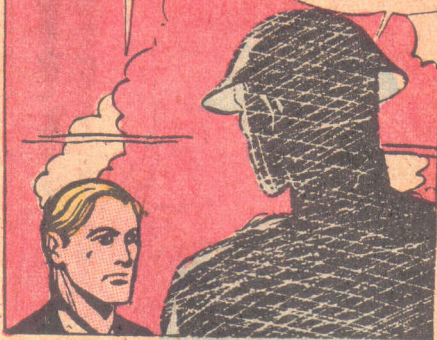


YOU DIED TO PROTECT THOSE IDEALS AND I SHALL LIVE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR PRESERVATION!

WELL SPOKEN, MY SON, BUT YOUR TASK IS FAR GREATER! YOU WILL BE THE CITIZEN'S GUARDIAN OF LIBERTY!

GO FORTH, CITIZEN SMITH, GUARDIAN OF THE AMERICAN WAY, AND STRIKE AT THE ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACY... IF YOU NEED ME, I WILL COME TO YOU!

HE'S GONE! THOSE WORDS HAVE FILLED ME WITH NEW LIFE! GOODBYE, FATHER, I WILL NOT FAIL YOU!

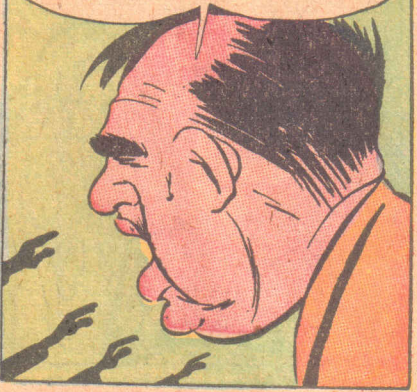


BUT, AS CITIZEN SMITH RISES AS DEMOCRACY'S DEFENDER, OTHERS PLAN IT'S DESTRUCTION...

NOW THAT I AM HEAD OF THE WORKERS OF THE GROTON PLANE FACTORY, WE WILL BEGIN OUR CAMPAIGN TO SLOW DOWN PRODUCTION!

PICKED AGENTS ARE WORKERS IN THE PLANT AND ARE READY, HERR GREEDER!

OUR LEADER UPHOLDS THE PRINCIPLE OF RUTHLESSNESS TO GAIN HIS AIMS!... YOU HAVE THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO ARE AGAINST A STRIKE IN THE PLANT! GO!



...AND IN A SHORT WHILE GREEDER'S AGENTS BEGIN THEIR REIGN OF TERROR!...

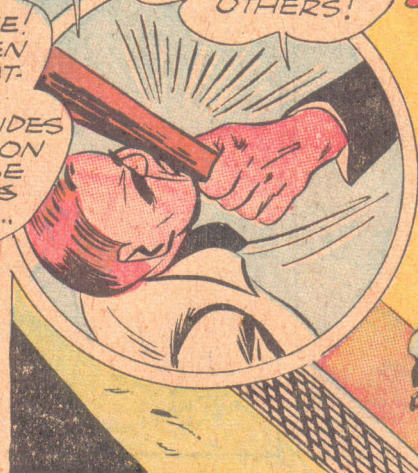
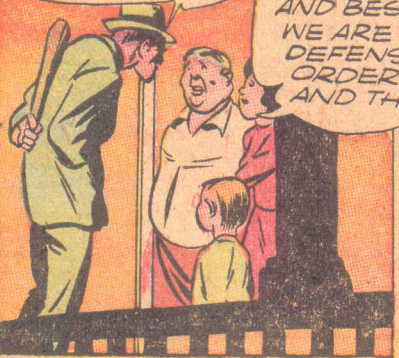
OWW! THERE...! THAT WILL CONVINCE YOU!... NOW FOR THE OTHERS!

...AND LATER... OTHER INNOCENT WORKERS ARE SUBJECT TO BRUTAL TERRORISM...

...AND GREEDER SAYS CONDITIONS ARE BAD, WE MUST STRIKE!

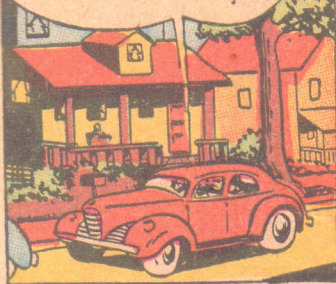
IT'S A LIE! THE MEN ARE SATISFIED... AND BESIDES WE ARE ON DEFENSE ORDERS AND TH...

HA! HA! SOON ALL SHALL SEE THAT GREEDER MEANS BUSINESS!

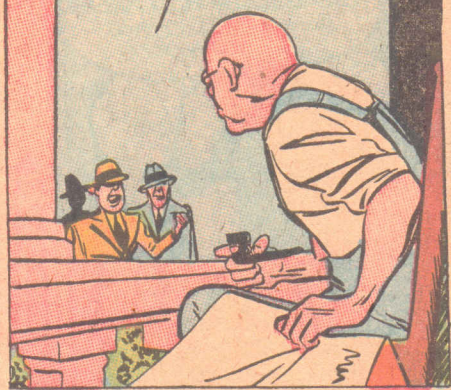


OUTSIDE THE HOME OF
PAT HENDRICKS, LOYAL
WORKER IN THE PLANE
FACTORY....

THIS GUY HENDRICKS
IS AGAINST GREEDER
BEING THE HEAD OF
THE UNION! GREEDER
WANTS HIM OUT
OF THE WAY!



HEY, HENDRICKS...
WE WANT YOU!



...SUDDENLY, CITIZEN SMITH,
THE GUARDIAN OF DEMOCRACY,
HAPPENS ON THE SCENE...

LOOKS LIKE MORE
TERRORISM OVER THERE!
...IT'S THE SAME MEN
WHO CAUSED TROUBLE
AT THE FACTORY!

HELP!



...AS THE TERRORISTS BEAR
DOWN ON HENDRICKS...

WHAT'S THIS??
WHO...?

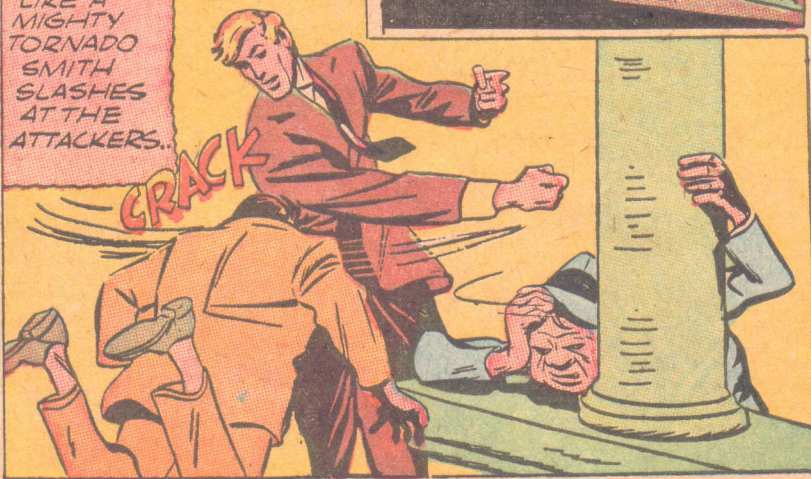
CITIZEN
SMITH...!
AT YOUR
SERVICE!

HELP!



LIKE A
MIGHTY
TORNADO
SMITH
SLASHES
AT THE
ATTACKERS...

CRACK



I HOPE YOU
BOYS GET A
KICK OUT
OF THIS!

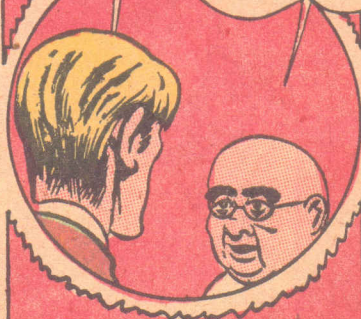
C'MON...LET'S
GET OUT OF HERE
HE'S TOO MUCH
FOR US!



NOW TELL
ME, WHAT'S
ALL THE
TROUBLE
AMONG THE
FACTORY
WORKERS?

THE MEN IN
THE PLANT
DIDN'T KNOW
GREEDER AND
HIS MEN WERE
FOREIGN AGENTS
...NOW GREEDER'S
IN CONTROL
OF THE COM-
PANY UNION..!

...WITH BLOODSHED
HE GETS THE WORK-
ERS TO STRIKE,
SO DEFENCE
ORDERS ARE
NOT FILLED!
THEY MUST
OBEY...OR SUFFER
AT THE HANDS
OF THOSE
BRUTES!
HELP MUST COME!



...AND I
THINK IT
HAS COME!

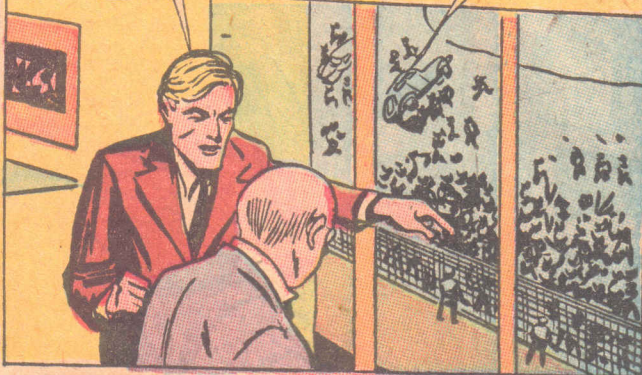


THE FOLLOWING MORNING AS THE FRIGHTENED WORKERS CONGREGATE OUTSIDE THE PLANT, THE FEARLESS CITIZEN SMITH CONFERS WITH THE COMPANY PRESIDENT.

THE MEN AND THE UNION ARE NOT TO BLAME, SIR... IT'S GREEDER AND HIS FOREIGN AGENTS WHO ARE IN CONTROL!

IN THAT CASE, I'LL INFORM THE GOVERNOR TO SEND TROOPS! THAT'LL...

NO! NO! GREEDER'S MEN WILL CAUSE A RIOT AND SLAY HUNDREDS BEFORE THEY'RE TAKEN! WE MUST WAIT... AND I'M SURE THEY'LL PLAY RIGHT INTO OUR HANDS!



DOWNSTAIRS, GREEDER'S AGENTS LURK AMONG THE WORKERS...

WRECK THE PLANT!

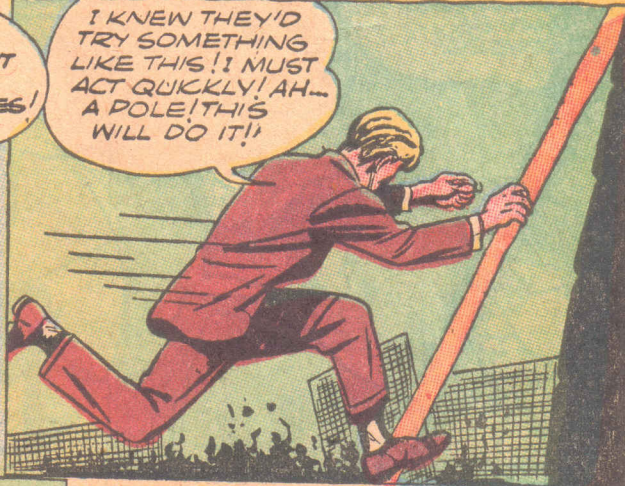
...BUT SUDDENLY, THE MIGHTY GUARDIAN OF DEMOCRACY SPRINGS INTO ACTION...

OUR MEN ARE ARMED WITH ROCKS AND CLUBS!

WE'RE READY, LET'S START THE FIREWORKS!

THEY CAN'T TREAT US LIKE SLAVES!

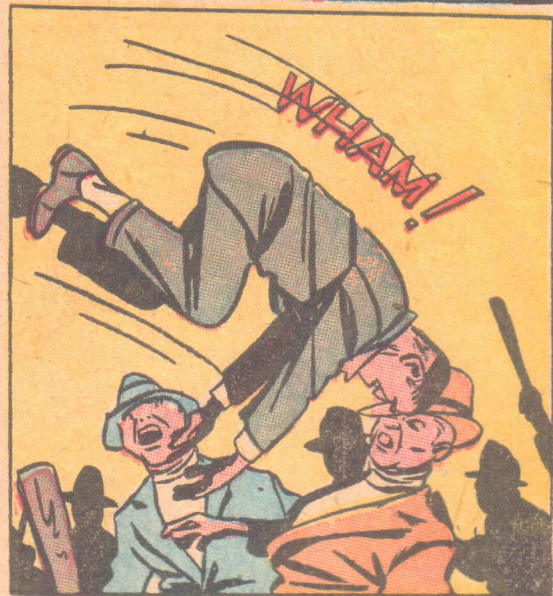
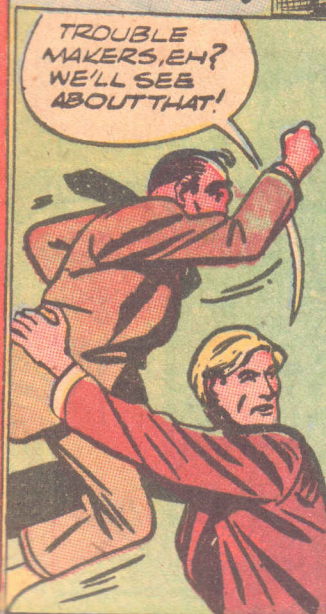
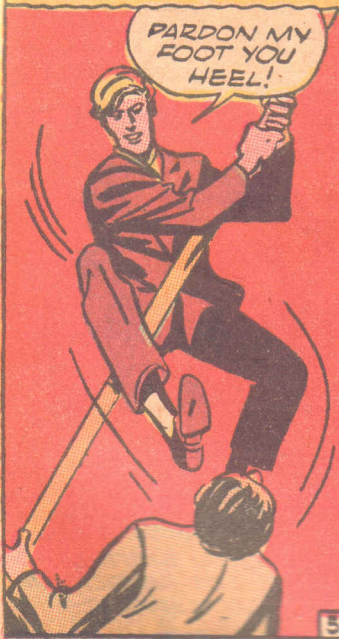
I KNEW THEY'D TRY SOMETHING LIKE THIS! I MUST ACT QUICKLY! AH... A POLE! THIS WILL DO IT!



...AND HE VAULTS INTO THE ONRUSHING MOB...

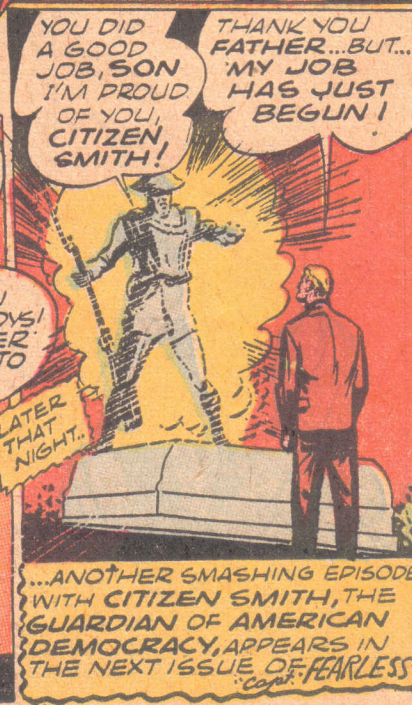
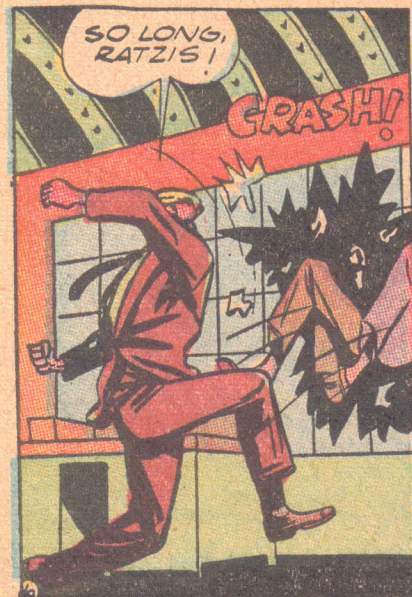
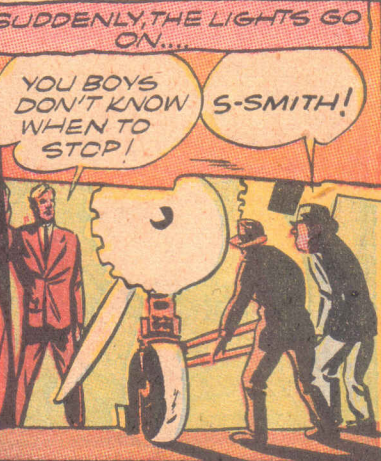
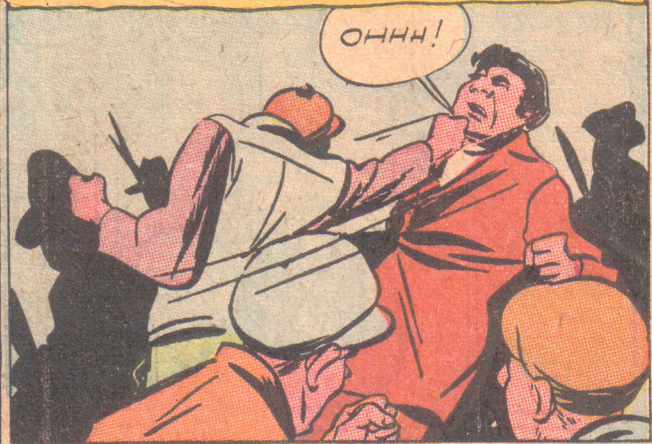
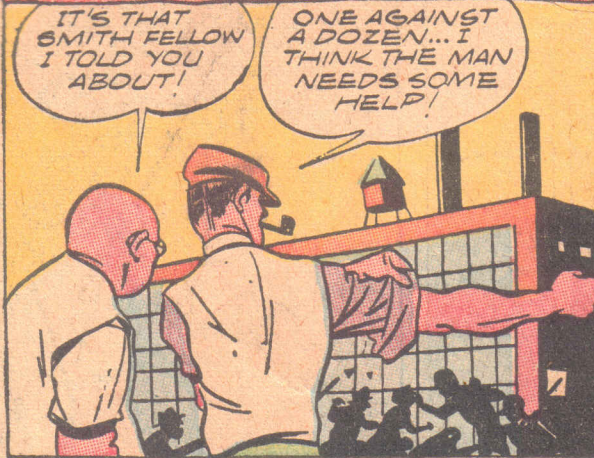
PARDON MY FOOT YOU HEEL!

TROUBLE MAKERS, EH? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!



FEAR DISAPPEARS FROM THE WORKERS, AS THEY WATCH THE MIGHTY CITIZEN SMITH...

...INSPIRED BY THE DARING DEFENDER, THE LOYAL WORKERS TURN ON THE RUTHLESS MEMBERS OF GREEDER'S BAND AND SOON SUBDUDE THEM....



IT'S THAT SMITH FELLOW I TOLD YOU ABOUT!

ONE AGAINST A DOZEN... I THINK THE MAN NEEDS SOME HELP!

OH!!

BUT WHAT ABOUT GREEDER? AND...THERE MAY BE OTHERS!

GREEDER... AND ANY THAT REMAIN...WELL, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM!

THAT NIGHT, INSIDE THE AIRPLANE FACTORY...

HA! THEY THINK WE BEAT IT, GREEDER!

WE'LL FIX THESE BOMBERS SO THEY'LL NEVER FLY!

SUDDENLY, THE LIGHTS GO ON...

YOU BOYS DON'T KNOW WHEN TO STOP!

S-SMITH!

YOU DID A GOOD JOB, SON I'M PROUD OF YOU, CITIZEN SMITH!

THANK YOU FATHER...BUT... MY JOB HAS JUST BEGUN!

SO LONG, RATZIS!

CRASH!

OUTSIDE...

BOYS...LOOKS LIKE CITIZEN SMITH DID IT AGAIN!

THERE HE GOES NOW! HEY SMITH!

SEE YOU AGAIN, BOYS! I'VE OTHER WORK TO DO!

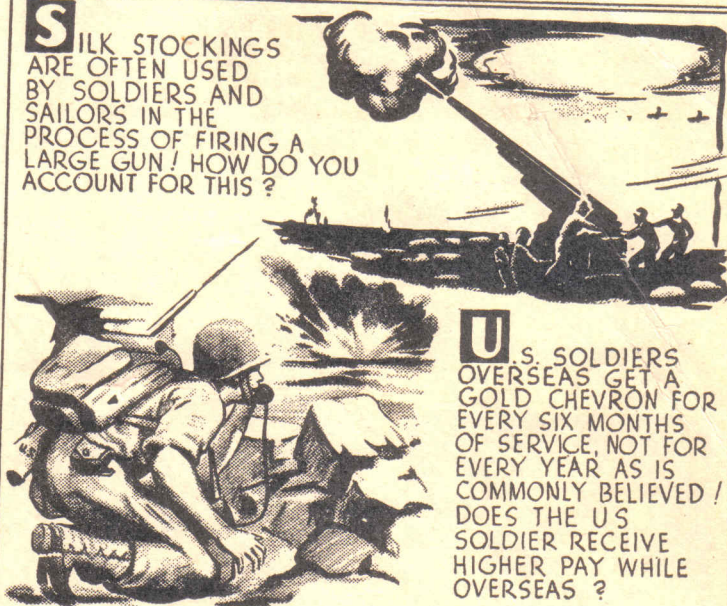
LATER THAT NIGHT...

...ANOTHER SMASHING EPISODE WITH CITIZEN SMITH, THE GUARDIAN OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, APPEARS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF FEARLESS!

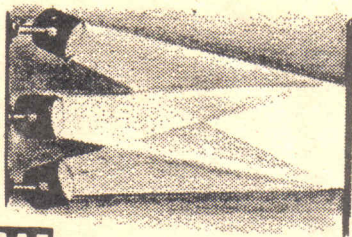
Powder for large caliber guns is kept in silk powder bags; sometimes old silk stockings.
 Yes. A U.S. soldier receives higher pay while overseas.
 No. When primary color paints are used a muddy gray is the result.
 A pane of this special glass measuring 3' x 4' can be made into crystals for Bulova Watches valued at over \$6,000.

IT'S TIME YOU KNEW ----by LAWRENCE

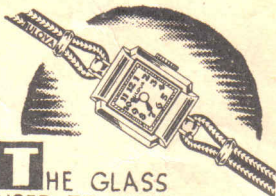
SILK STOCKINGS ARE OFTEN USED BY SOLDIERS AND SAILORS IN THE PROCESS OF FIRING A LARGE GUN! HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THIS?



U.S. SOLDIERS OVERSEAS GET A GOLD CHEVRON FOR EVERY SIX MONTHS OF SERVICE, NOT FOR EVERY YEAR AS IS COMMONLY BELIEVED! DOES THE U.S. SOLDIER RECEIVE HIGHER PAY WHILE OVERSEAS?



WHEN THREE RAYS OF LIGHT MADE UP OF PRIMARY COLORS LIKE RED, YELLOW AND BLUE, CROSS EACH OTHER, A WHITE LIGHT RESULTS! IS THIS ALSO TRUE OF PAINT PIGMENTS?

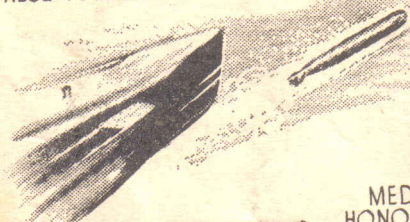


THE GLASS USED TO MAKE CRYSTALS FOR BULOVA WATCHES IS THE FINEST GLASS MANUFACTURED FOR COMMERCIAL USE. HOW MUCH WOULD A 3 FOOT BY 4 FOOT PANE OF THIS GLASS COST?

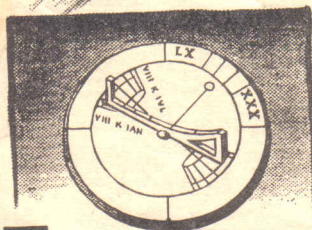
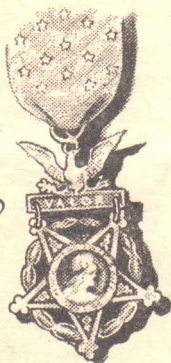
An Octopus has eight arms.
 by Peter Hele (Helein).
 The "Nuremberg Egg"—famed ancestor of modern Watches—was invented in 1501
 The Medal of Honor can only be awarded by vote of Congress and it is only given
 for conspicuous gallantry and risk of life beyond the call of duty.
 A Whitehead torpedo costs \$10,000.

IT'S TIME YOU KNEW ---- by LAWRENCE

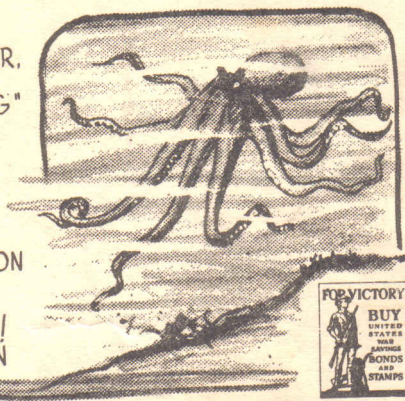
THE WHITEHEAD TORPEDO, USED BY THE U.S. NAVY, IS 18 FEET LONG, CAN TRAVEL 8,000 YARDS AT 40 MILES PER HOUR AND EXPLODES 500 POUNDS OF T.N.T. AT THE TARGET! HOW MUCH DOES ONE OF THESE TORPEDOS COST ?



THE MEDAL OF HONOR IS THE HIGHEST AWARD GIVEN TO ANY U.S. SOLDIER. IN WHAT TWO WAYS DOES THIS AWARD DIFFER FROM ALL OTHER SERVICE HONORS ?



THE FIRST PORTABLE SUNDIALS WERE USED IN ANCIENT ROME IN THE YEAR, A.D. 250. WHEN WAS THE FAMOUS "NUREMBERG EGG" INVENTED ?



THE OCTOPUS - COMMON MARINE ANIMAL - ALWAYS ATTEMPTS TO DEVOUR ITSELF WHEN CAPTURED ! HOW MANY ARMS HAS AN OCTOPUS ?



ANSWERS ARE PRINTED IN REVERSE AT TOP OF PAGE